

# Emergency Preparedness

## Public Health Preparedness

A public health emergency is any event or situation demanding immediate action on the part of the public health system in order to prevent disease and injury or to help maintain public health within the community. Emergencies can be natural or man-made. All of us face the possibility of natural disasters, accidents, power outages or intentional acts to disrupt our daily lives. We cannot control the weather or prevent disasters from happening, but there are steps we can take to minimize risks from known hazards. Planning now can help save lives later.

### What Clay County Health Department does to help prepare for an emergency:

- Help local communities with preparedness planning and response efforts.
- Help find medicine and medical supplies during a large community emergency
- Provide emergency preparedness education to the community.
- Coordinate the [Clay County Medical Reserve Corps](#).
- Take part in disaster preparedness training and exercises to evaluate local emergency response during and after disasters (such as floods, blizzards, earthquakes, tornados), accidents (such as fires, chemical spills, and broken water or sewer structures), and acts of terrorism.
- Participate as a member of the [Clay County Local Emergency Planning Committee \(LEPC\)](#).

## Personal and Family Preparedness

There are steps that you and your family can take now to prepare for any type of emergency. Putting together a family plan will ensure that you and your family know where one another are in the event of an emergency, hear important instructions from local officials, and respond in a way that keeps you and your family safe. You can click on this link to learn more about [Personal and Family Emergency Preparedness](#).

### Personal and Family Preparedness - Are You Prepared?

There are steps that you and your family can take now to prepare for any type of emergency. Putting together a family plan will ensure that you and your family know where one another are in the event of an emergency, hear important instructions from local officials, and respond in a way that keeps you and your family safe.

Click on the link below to learn how to make a family emergency kit, create a family emergency plan, stay informed on the latest emergency response information and get involved in community preparedness efforts.

**Step 1:** [Make a Kit](#)

**Step 2:** [Make an Emergency Plan](#)

**Step 3:** [Be Informed](#)

**Step 4:** [Get Involved](#)

You can also help your local community with preparedness planning and response efforts by participating in the [Clay County Medical Reserve Corps](#).

For more information on how to prepare for a variety of emergency situations, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).



## Emergency Preparedness

### Clay County Medical Reserve Corps

The Clay County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was established in August 2012 by the Clay County Health Department (CCHD) to create a cadre of community volunteers committed to building a healthy, prepared, and resilient community by:

- Supporting local emergency response efforts
- Supporting local public health initiatives
- Participating in community preparedness activities
- Be willing to supplement and assist local medical emergency response systems during a public health emergency.

The mission of the Clay County MRC is to enhance the emergency preparedness and response capabilities in Clay County by recruiting and training a corps of medical, non-medical, and public health volunteers to assist in response to a public health emergency, including mass dispensing/vaccination, and to support public health initiatives. The MRC will allow volunteers to use their professional expertise to improve the public health of their communities on an ongoing basis. During times of crisis and non-crisis, volunteers will supplement the existing public health infrastructure to improve overall preparedness and find ways to promote healthy behaviors, prevention of disease, and provision of care in the community.

When disaster strikes a community, volunteers of all skill levels are necessary to help those in dire need. By volunteering now, BEFORE the disaster strikes, you become part of an organized response effort, helping those in need more quickly. Clay County MRC welcomes medical, public health, and non-medical individuals at least 18 years old who are willing to serve our local community when needed.

If you are interested in joining the Clay County Medical Reserve Corps, please call 662-4406 or email [ClayCountyMRC@healthdept.org](mailto:ClayCountyMRC@healthdept.org) for more information.

You can also review the Medical Reserve Corps website at <https://medicalreservecorps.gov/> to learn more about the Clay County MRC and other MRC units across the country.

### Local Emergency Planning Committee

The Clay County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is a coalition of local agencies that work together to strengthen Clay County's emergency response efforts. The committee is comprised of representatives from the following sectors - elected local officials, law enforcement, local emergency management, transportation, fire, hospital, media, first aid/EMT, public health, schools, and other community groups.

The LEPC meets on a quarterly basis at the Clay County Health Department. Meetings are typically held on the second Thursday of the week at 10 am.

#### 2013 LEPC Meetings:

Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am

Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 am

Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am