

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES ON BEAVER ISLAND



If you are experiencing an emergency – **CALL 911!** DO NOT HANG UP – the 911 system on this Island has a 20 to 30 second delay. **You must report your street address.** If you or your guests

are unfamiliar with your street address, write it down on a card that you place on your refrigerator.

It is important to have a **green and white house number sign by your driveway.** Buy one from the Fire Department Auxiliary and place it near your driveway (see Tim McDonough at the market). Make sure your driveway is clear and wide enough for emergency response equipment to travel to your home.

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center, located at 37304 Kings Highway, **is not an emergency room; use of this center is by appointment only.** The center staff can be reached 24/7 at **231-448-2275.**



Emergency Management: Charlevoix County's Emergency Plan (Co Plan) formalizes the process by which County emergency forces will respond to major emergencies or disasters, including a response for the Island. The Beaver Island Emergency Operations Plan (BI Plan) acts as

a supporting document to the Co Plan to address the unique obstacles to mounting an emergency response to this Island community such as mobilizing mainland-based resources to the Island. **The Co Plan and BI Plan require most incidents on the Island to be handled by the Incident Commander, which would be the Fire Chief for fires and the Deputy Sheriff for most other incidents.** Island-based first responders have communication equipment for emergencies that does not rely on power.

Charlevoix County operates a ***Be Alert* Emergency Notification System** which provides accurate, immediate emergency notifications from your local public safety agency to your cell, work, or home phone, via text, email, or voice message. **It is recommended that you register for this system** by contacting charlevoixcounty.org and click "On-line tools and services", scroll to the lower portion of the window where it reads "Register for *Be Alert* Emergency Notification System" and click on this button.

Charlevoix County Sheriff also sponsors a **Health and Wellness Safety Check Program** which provides an in-person wellness check on Islanders registered in this

program. To register for this program or to register someone else to be in this program, please **contact the Beaver Island Rural Health Center at 231-448-2275.**



There's nothing more frustrating than a **power outage** that lasts a long time. Outages for an hour or two don't require as much concern. However, if the outage persists, you need to **be prepared before the outage and consider the enclosed Information Sheet from FEMA.**

In addition, if predicted weather conditions are likely to cause considerable winds such that power lines may be affected by falling trees or breaking power poles creating a power outage, some additional tips include:

- **Toilet Operations:** Your toilet will have one flush of water in it at the time of a power outage, save the flush for when you really need to do the flush. **Store a three to five-gallon bucket filled with water or fill your tub before any outage.** Pouring a portion of this water into a toilet will flush the toilet (do not use the toilet handle). Do not use water from a milk jug or something with a small spout. You need the weight of a larger volume of water to make the toilet flush.
- **Telephone Operations:** **If you have a TDS landline**, you most likely have an electric powered phone which will not work during a power outage. Consider obtaining an older phone model that is not electrical for use during emergencies. **During a power outage** unplug the modern phone and **plug in the older style phone into the phone jack.**
- **Refrigerator Operations:** Keep a plastic milk jug filled with water in your freezer. **During a power outage place this frozen water jug in your refrigerator** to keep the food cold.
- **Resources for drinking water, fuel, and food:** To secure clean water you may bring empty water jugs to either fire hall (in town or East Side Dr) to use their outdoor spicket or to the Grassmick's located at 30710 East Side Dr where they have a yard hydrant. Fuel is available at the Gas Station – they run on a generator during power outages. McDonough's Market is connected to the GLE Generator via the buried system; it is likely they will have power during an outage.
- **Medical Services:** EMS operates during power outages and will be responsive to 911 calls. The Beaver Island Rural Health Center runs on a generator during

a power outage; **all persons with medical conditions and/or home medical equipment that need access to power are welcome to use the BIRHC** which will be staffed with at least one medical provider and volunteers to assist you. The center will work to develop a **list of vulnerable people**, for these **people to be contacted by officials or volunteers** performing a welfare check during long-term outages.

- **Warming Stations:** Warming Stations will be staffed with volunteers and open for visitors **if power is out and the temperature is forecasted to be below 45 degrees for more than 24 hours.** **If the 24-hour period ends during the overnight period, these facilities cannot be opened until daytime for the safety of all.**

The Peaine Township Hall and Community Center will open first. If the power outage is predicated to last multiple days, the BI Community School will open. Refer to the below issues associated with power at **the center and school; if they do not have power, they will not be able to open.**

- **Peaine Township Hall:** This hall runs on a generator during power outages and is therefore the first warming center that is available to the community. Volunteers will staff this facility to assist people who need warm spaces, including overnight.
- **Community Center:** This center does not run on a generator, however, it is connected to the GLE Generator via buried cable and is likely to continue to have power, unless the GLE Generator is unable to operate. This would be the second warming center that is available to the community, including overnight.
- **Harbor Bodega:** The bodega does not run on a generator, however, it is connected to the GLE Generator via buried cable and is likely to continue to have power, unless the GLE Generator is unable to operate. This would be the third warming center that is available to the community, but not overnight.
- **The BI Community School:** The school does not run on a generator, however, it is connected to the GLE generator via buried cable and is likely to continue to have power, unless the GLE generator is unable to operate. This would be the third warming center that is available to the community and would be used during a long-term island-wide power outage, including overnight.

- **GLE Generator:** The GLE Generator operates with diesel fuel and is therefore independent of the electrical cable on the bottom of Lake Michigan bringing power from Cross Village to the harbor and then through an aerial system to GLE's transformer station by the four corners. To operate the Generator, which is a system of three generators, a GLE lineman needs to be on-site. Simply 'flipping a switch' does not turn on the Generator. Syncing the three generators takes time and sometimes causes some of the underground system to be disengaged for a time. During times of cold temperatures, it takes time to start the Generator due to the process time to heat up the diesel components.



Winter storms can be very dangerous, depending on their ferocity. These storms can be so severe as to go on for several days at a time. To stay safe and comfortable while hunkering down, **consider the tips outlined in the enclosed information sheet from**

FEMA. If a long-term power outage occurs as outlined above, the same medical center and warming stations plan will be implemented. Please be careful driving to the health center and/or stations.