

Jackson County Department of Public Health

Melissa McKnight
Deputy Health Director
828-587-8288

2018-22
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2018

PREPARING FOR SEVERE WEATHER

Severe weather can happen any time, in any part of the country. Severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, flooding, and winter storms associated with freezing rain, sleet, snow, and strong winds. The Jackson County Department of Public Health (JCDPH) wants to help you understand the types of hazardous weather that affect our community and develop an emergency plan to prepare for such hazards.

The types of severe weather that are most likely to occur in Jackson County and surrounding counties in Western North Carolina include winter storms, thunderstorms, and flooding. To prepare for such hazards, it is important to make a family emergency plan. A family emergency plan answers four main questions: 1) How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings? 2) What is my shelter plan? 3) What is my evacuation route? 4) What is my family/household communication plan? Make sure to consider the specific needs of your household in your family emergency plan such as dietary needs, medical needs, disability or access/functional needs, and more. Lastly, practice your family emergency plan so all in your family know what to do when an emergency occurs. Samples of family emergency plans can be found at <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>.

An additional way to prepare for hazards is to sign up for local emergency alerts. Public safety officials use timely and reliable systems to alert you and your family in the event of natural or manmade disasters. In Jackson County, Emergency Management uses CodeRED, a reverse 911 that allows officials the ability to deliver pre-recorded telephone messages to targeted areas or the entire county as a whole. To sign up for CodeRED, visit <https://www.jacksonnc.org/emergency-management.html>.

To learn more about emergency preparedness, visit <http://health.jacksonnc.org/emergency-preparedness-1> or call 828-587-8288.

###