

# LEPC CHRONICLE

## Safety Reminders for Winter Driving - Copper River LEPC Press Release

Winters in Alaska are beautiful but driving during the winter season can present significant challenges. Roads may become treacherous very quickly. Drivers are often not prepared for rapidly changing road conditions and may find themselves in a moderate snow storm that suddenly becomes a blizzard. These storms may produce strong winds causing white-out conditions, drifts across the roads, or icing. Your Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) recommends that you prepare your vehicle for severe weather driving conditions.

Drivers should carry an emergency kit in their vehicle which includes the following: a windshield scraper, shovel, tow chain or rope, and booster cables. An extra hat, socks, mittens, and a blanket, along with water and non-perishable high-energy snack foods, such as granola bars, raisins or peanut butter may become necessary should you become stranded.

Emergency flares, a flashlight, and a fluorescent distress flag (i.e. a bright colored piece of cloth or ribbon) will help alert other drivers or emergency workers find your vehicle during the storm or once the storm has passed.

Should you become stranded by a blizzard or break

down, try to pull off the main road onto the shoulder. Turn on your hazard lights and tie a distress flag on your antenna or door handle so that attention is drawn to you. You may use matches to light a jar candle which can provide some emergency heating.

Stay in your car until help arrives. You are more likely to be found in your vehicle than if you are wandering around. If you leave your vehicle you run the risk of becoming disoriented in blowing snow.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- March 10-12: Tsunami Operations Workshop in Ketchikan
- March 17-18: Earthquake Assessment Training in Anchorage
- March 30-April 4: Hazmat Technician Course in Anchorage
- April 7-10: Spring Preparedness Conference

As we push through another long winter, keep in mind the planning and preparation we do are not just for the large scale catastrophic disaster, planning and preparing for the potentially less devastating but more likely smaller disasters is just as important if not more so. Keep up the great work you do in your communities and don't forget to brag about it here. Let me know how I can support you from this end.

Marief Fonteyn—DHS&EM LEPC Coordinator

# LEPC SUPERSTARS

★ Congratulations to Northwest Arctic Borough LEPC for assisting 8 villages in completing Small Community Emergency Response Plans (SCERPs): Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kobuk, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik, and Shungnak



★ Welcome Chris Noel, the new Emergency Manager and LEPC Coordinator for Denali Borough.



Local Emergency Planning Committee Association Meeting  
October 10, 2014.

*Involve high school and college students in the LEPC as much as possible; consider a youth seat on the committee.*

Someone you want to recognize? Send your message to Mariel Fonteyn at [mariel.fonteyn@alaska.gov](mailto:mariel.fonteyn@alaska.gov) or 907-428-7024

## LEPCS AROUND THE STATE

- Kodiak: held an emergency preparedness fair at the fire department; developed a local preparedness guide distributed throughout the community for locals and visitors; established an outreach subcommittee.
- Aleutian and Pribilofs: received new inundation mapping for the community; set up tsunami information kiosk at the library using touchscreen available through DHS&EM.
- Copper River: had two articles printed in the local Copper River Record, including the article included in this newsletter.
- Denali: developing an MOU with the Red Cross for response assistance and LEPC involvement; working with National Parks Service geologist to determine earthquake risk to the Borough.
- North Slope Borough: participated in biannual local health fair; conducted radio discussion regarding winter preparedness; developed hazard mitigation plan for Kaktovik and working on SCERPs.
- Juneau: CERT program is growing faster than funding can keep up with and additional funding sources are being investigated; reaching out to area tank farms to participate in SHSP grant funded study.
- Northern Southeast: agreement now in place with local pet shelter regarding care of pets when shelter is activated; security vulnerability assessment (SVA) completed with DHS&EM.
- Petersburg: continuing work on updating bylaws, EOP, and POD plans; working to fill membership vacancies and grow LEPC.
- Southern Southeast: Craig has almost completed the requirements for Tsunami Ready certification; island-wide emergency communications plan is in progress.
- Valdez: participated in regional traveling health fair; assisted with flu shot clinics in town.
- Kenai Peninsula: researching alternatives to septic systems as mitigation to improve health status during an event.

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Crack a window for fresh air as freezing wet snow can completely seal out oxygen. Also be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning and run the engine and heater only with a window open for ventilation. It is very important to ensure that your exhaust pipe does not become blocked with snow.

Don't remain in one position. From time to time, clap your hands and move your arms and legs vigorously. If you are alone, stay awake, or if you are with others, take turns keeping watch.

One of the best suggestions, before leaving on a winter trip, is making a trip plan and advising someone of your plans. Call ahead to your destination and let someone know when you intend to leave, what route you will be traveling and your expected time of arrival. If someone at your starting point and someone at your destination know your plans, help can reach you much more quickly, in the event of an emergency.

When winter weather deteriorates, the prepared driver is less likely to panic and stress out. Panic and stress are leading factors in making the wrong choice during an emergency. If you can avoid a trip during hazardous weather, do so. This is your best option. Wait until the storm passes. If this is not possible and the trip is necessary, sensible preparation can save your life.

Your LEPC meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 at Prince William Sound Community College. Everybody is invited and encouraged to attend.



North Slope Borough LEPC members travel to villages to host preparedness meetings

Something you want in the newsletter?

Contact Mariel Fonteyn at [mariel.fonteyn@alaska.gov](mailto:mariel.fonteyn@alaska.gov) or 907-428-7024