



Senior Emergency Preparedness Outreach Packet



Gratiot County Emergency Management / 911 Central Dispatch

This packet is designed to help senior citizens in Gratiot County prepare for emergencies such as severe weather, power outages, winter storms, and other disasters. Preparing ahead of time helps keep you and your family safe.

Important Emergency Number:

Call 911 for any life-threatening emergency

Smart911.com

WHY SHOULD YOU SIGN UP?

- It allows 9-1-1 to have valuable information on... you, your family members, pets, even your home and vehicles!
- It's free... and it can save seconds or minutes during an emergency
- It's private and secure
- PLUS You control what information is being shared with 9-1-1

Download the App Today.

Scan the QR Code to Learn More About Smart911

GRATIOT COUNTY 9-1-1 CENTRAL DISPATCH

Available on the App Store and Google Play. Smart911.com



Scam Alerts for Senior Citizens

■ Common Scams

- Government Impersonation: Calls claiming you owe money or will be arrested and demanding payment with gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.
- Grandparent Scams: Someone pretending to be a grandchild in trouble asking for urgent money.
- Tech Support Scams: Popups or callers claiming your computer has a virus and asking for remote access.
- Medicare / Health Insurance Scams: Requests for Medicare numbers or offers of “free” medical equipment.
- Lottery or Sweepstakes Scams: You’re told you won a prize but must pay fees first.
- Charity or Romance Scams: Fake charities or online relationships asking for money.

Warning Signs of a Scam

- Pressure to act immediately
- Requests for gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency
- Requests for personal or financial information
- Refusal to provide written information
- Telling you not to tell family or police



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How to Protect Yourself

- Hang up on suspicious calls
- Never give personal information over the phone
- Talk with family before sending money
- Do not click suspicious email or text links
- Register for the National Do Not Call Registry

If You Suspect a Scam

- Call 911 if you feel threatened
- Contact your local sheriff's office or police department
- Report fraud to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
- File a report with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)

Remember: If something feels suspicious, stop and verify. It is always okay to hang up, ignore the message, or ask for help



Michigan Tornado Safety for Seniors

Emergency Preparedness Guide Michigan averages about 15–20 tornadoes each year. Tornadoes can occur quickly and sometimes with little warning. Seniors should prepare ahead of time and know where to take shelter when severe weather occurs.

Warning Signs of a Tornado

- Dark or greenish sky
- Loud roaring sound similar to a freight train
- Large hail or heavy rain followed by sudden calm
- Rotating clouds or funnel cloud Tornado Watch vs Tornado Warning
- Tornado Watch: Conditions are favorable for tornadoes. Stay alert and monitor weather updates.
- Tornado Warning: A tornado has been spotted or detected by radar. Take shelter immediately.



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Best Places to Take Shelter

- If you have a basement, go to the lowest level and stay away from windows.
- Take shelter under a sturdy table or stairs.
- If no basement is available, go to a small interior room such as a bathroom, closet, or hallway.
- Cover your head and neck with a blanket, pillow, or mattress.

Special Preparedness Tips for Seniors

- Keep a flashlight, phone, and shoes near your bed.
- Store medications in a small emergency bag.
- Use a NOAA Weather Radio with an alarm.
- Arrange a neighbor or family check-in plan during severe weather.

Mobile Home Safety

Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes. If you live in a mobile home, identify a nearby sturdy building or storm shelter and go there immediately when a tornado warning is issued.

After a Tornado

- Avoid downed power lines.
- Stay away from damaged buildings.
- Watch for broken glass and debris.
- Check on neighbors, especially elderly residents.



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Before Severe Weather

- Keep a flashlight and extra batteries nearby
- Have a weather radio or phone alerts enabled
- Store 3–7 days of food and water
- Keep at least one week of medications
- Charge cell phones and backup batteries
- Keep emergency numbers near the phone

During Severe Storms or Tornado Warnings

- Go to the lowest level of your home if possible
- If no basement, go to an interior room away from windows
- Avoid large open rooms with windows
- Protect your head and neck

Power Outage Safety

- Use flashlights instead of candles
- Keep refrigerator doors closed
- Dress in warm layers during winter
- Never use generators or grills inside your home

Buddy System

- Ask a family member, friend, or neighbor to check on you during severe weather

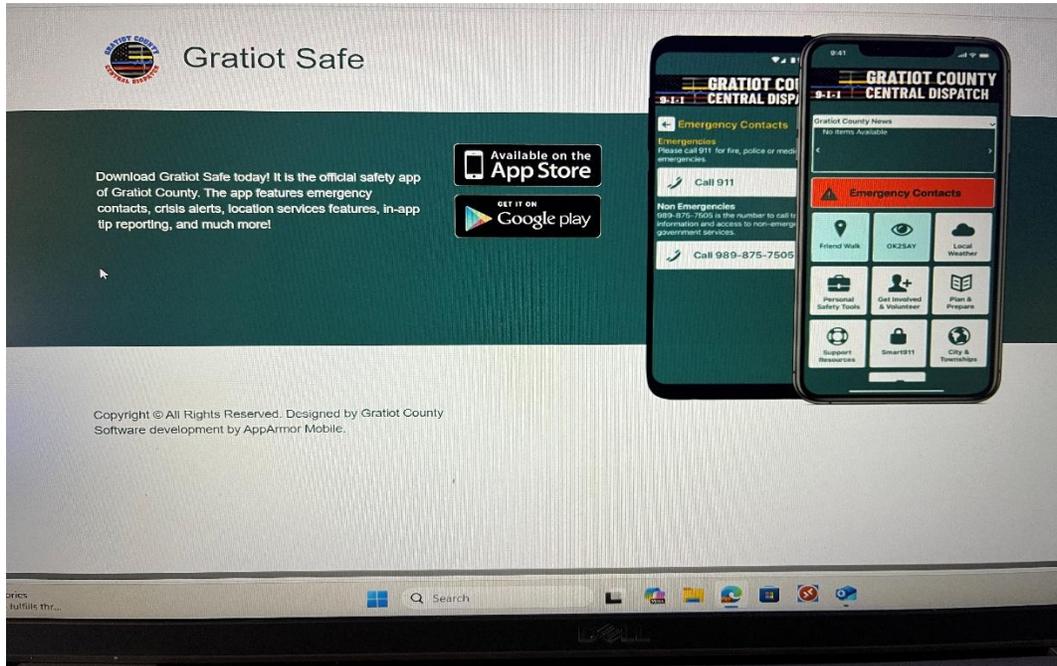


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- This is especially important if you live alone or rely on medical



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**WHEN EMERGENCIES HAPPEN,
BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.**

RAVE

MOBILE SAFETY



Emergency Alerts & Notifications

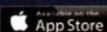
Text Message, Phone Call, Email & Social Media



To Register for RAVE Alert via Text Message,
Text **GC911** to **67283**

or visit Smart911.com or download the Smart911 app today!

Message & data rates may apply. Go to getrave.com for privacy & terms information.





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Emergency Contact Information

Family Contact:

Neighbor / Friend:

Doctor:

Local Emergency Management:

911
