

**How will I know if there is an emergency situation in the Town of Lenox?**

Citizens and visitors of Lenox will be alerted by the following means:

- Warning horns will sound on the three Fire Stations.
- Emergency Broadcast Messages via both radio and television
- Door to door notification as needed.

**What should I do if I hear the Fire Station warning horns?**

Go inside and turn on your television and/or radio to listen for instructions as to the nature of the emergency. The Town of Lenox with the cooperation of the Adelphia Cable System will interrupt normal cable operations to pass on emergency information. Local radio and television stations will be alerted to the emergency and also broadcast emergency information to you.

**Why the warning horns sound?**

To alert the citizens of both natural and man made disasters. Examples are: Severe Storms, Earthquakes, Dam failures, Chemical spills and terrorism.

Please Note that the warning horns are tested every Saturday at 12 noon time.

**How will I get the information if there is no power?**

Keep a portable radio on hand with fresh batteries. Listen to the Emergency Broadcast system messages on the radio.

**What about evacuation plans?**

Usually, the safest place is in your home. In the event of certain types of emergencies, you maybe advised to evacuate your home.

The Town of Lenox may open its Emergency Shelters. Please listen to your radio and/or television as to which shelters have been opened. The Towns primary shelters are located at Lenox Memorial High School, 197 East Street and Morris Elementary School, 129 West Street.

**What is meant by shelter in place?**

Go directly inside, close all windows, doors, vents, fireplace dampers and turn off all fans, heating or cooling systems. Take all your family members and pets into a safe room with your disaster supplies. Your safe room should be above ground for a chemical emergency and in the basement for a weather emergency. Pick a room with the fewest windows and door. Some chemicals are heavier than air. Once there seal all doors and windows with duct tape and poly sheets. Turn on a portable radio and listen to a local radio and/or television station for emergency information

**What if I can't go inside?**

Get into your vehicle and close all windows and vents. Shut off the motor and turn on your car radio to a local radio station to receive emergency messages.

**How should I prepare for emergencies?**

Prepare your home and family by keeping the following on hand:

- Non-perishable food & 3 gallons of bottled water per person
- Prescription medicine & first aid kit
- Firewood if you have a wood stove or functional fireplace
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Portable radio with extra batteries
- Blankets, sleeping bags & winter clothes
- Tools & manual can opener
- Diapers & baby formula
- Know how to shut off your gas, water and electricity
- If you use a portable generator, connect all appliances directly to it unless a licensed electrician has properly connected it with an electrical transfer switch. Keep your generator well ventilated – outside and not anywhere in your home. The generators exhaust produces carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas.
- If you use a propane or charcoal grill, keep it outside and away from the house. It too will produce carbon monoxide in an enclosed space.

**Emergency Phone Numbers & Web Sites for additional emergency preparedness information.**

<b>Ambulance – Fire – Police Emergencies</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>
Ambulance – business line	637-2347
Fire – business line	637-2347
Police - business line	637-2346
Emergency Management	637-2347
Lenox Board of Selectmen	637-5500
Lenox Town Manager	637-5500
Department of Public Works	637-5520
Berkshire Gas Company	800-292-5012
Massachusetts Electric Company	800-322-3223
Western Massachusetts Electric Co.	800-286-2000

**WEB SITES:**

- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency [www.state.ma.us/mema](http://www.state.ma.us/mema)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- Center for Disease Control [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- American Red Cross [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE FOR THE TOWN OF LENOX

## What should I do during an Emergency?

Remain calm, act quickly and be prepared. Do not tie up the telephone circuits. Listen for emergency messages on your radio and/or television. Stay away from down or broken utilities lines.

- **Thunderstorm**

If you are outside try to get into a building or vehicle. If you are in the woods pick a low area under thick, small trees.

If you are swimming or boating get out of the water immediately. If you are in an open area head for low ground such as a valley or ravine and crouch down.

*Do not touch metal objects or go near trees, hills, utilities poles or over head wires. Don't congregate with other people, spread out. Lightning will strike high points*

- **Tornado**

At home, go to the center of the lowest level of the house. Seek shelter in an interior hallway, closet or bathroom away from any windows, doors or outside walls. Get under sturdy furniture or stairs. *Do not stay in a mobile home, seek other shelter.*

Away from home, take shelter in a steel frame or concrete building if possible. *Avoid buildings with wide roof spans and a lot of glass windows.* If caught outside, lie flat in a ditch and protect your head. *Do not stay in your car*

- **Fire**

Have a family escape plan. Know two ways out and practice your escape plan. Once out Stay out and call from a neighbors. Install and maintain working smoke detectors. If you become trapped by the fire, close all doors between you and the fire. Call 911 and report that you are trapped and your location in the building. Stay low under the smoke and heat. Open a window if it is safe and hang something out the window to act as a flag.

- **Flooding**

Be ready to evacuate on a moments notice. Listen to weather reports and emergency bulletins. If informed to evacuate follow the official instructions. Avoid low lying areas and water ways. Drive slowly through water if necessary. Do not cross flooded areas on foot if water is above ankles.

- **Winter Storm**

Listen to local radio and news report. Be prepared at home. Stock up on food, water, fuel, flash lights and spare batteries. Have a portable radio available. Travel only if necessary. Keep a full tank of fuel. Use only main roads and notify someone of your estimated time of arrival. If stuck remain inside your car and wait for help. Run the engine sparingly; ventilate your car to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep blankets, flares, etc. in your trunk.

- **Earthquake**

The safest place is outside away from buildings and over head wires. If inside, don't run outside, stand in a doorway and get under a sturdy piece of furniture or sit next to an inside wall. Turn off the gas and power. Keep away from windows. If outside, stay low and away from buildings, power lines, chimneys and outside walls. If in your car, stop in the safest possible spot and stay low in your car. Earthquake after shocks may occur even days after. Stay out of damaged areas. Report any broken gas or water mains and any down power lines. Keep listening to the radio and TV for emergency messages.

- **Chemical Spill**

Move away from the spill or leak to avoid breathing or coming in contact with it. Stay up hill and up wind of the spill or leak. Call 9-1-1 to notify Emergency Services of the accident and stay on the line to answer their questions about the spill.

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Town of Lenox