



## CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Hello City of Burnsville,

In the spirit of September being Emergency Preparedness Month, let me take this opportunity to send this letter and, hopefully, have you start thinking about potential upcoming issues that could affect you, your family or even your workplace.

### **Storm Season**

The summer storm season is slowly winding down and, thankfully, we have been spared any damage in Burnsville. While this has been a below average storm season, please don't be lulled into a state of complacency. You may recall the tornados several weeks ago in Minneapolis and Cottage Grove happened to the surprise of even the National Weather Service. Damaging storms can whip up without much notice, so keep an eye to the sky and if shelter is needed, remember that your best place is the lowest level, inner hall of a building away from windows. Do you know where that would be at home or here at work? Take some time to plan for your storm season weather survival.

### **Flu Season**

It's BAACCK! Yes, the seasonal flu along with the H1N1 (Swine Flu) is starting to ramp up again. While no one can predict how severe the flu season will be, there are some universal precautions you can take to limit the chances of getting the flu.

1. **Get your flu shots.** Both the seasonal flu shot and the H1N1 shots will be available now or in the near future. Getting these vaccinations will help limit your chances of catching the flu.
2. **Wash your hands frequently.** Soap and water is best, and if these are not available, alcohol disinfectant dispensers or wipes work well too. Be proactive and purchase your own personal protection now before supplies dwindle.
3. **Cover you cough.** The flu is spread by coughing, sneezing, and leaving the virus on other people or things for us to pick up. Covering your cough can help limit the spread of the flu.
4. **Practice Social Distancing.** This means staying a safe distance (roughly six feet) from people who are coughing or sneezing or who may have the flu. This also means, if you get the flu, stay home until your fever is gone (under 100 degrees) for at least 24 hours.

You will hear more information as the flu season ramps up. Check out <http://www.ready.gov> for more information and check-lists to help you prepare for this and any other disaster.

## **Winter Season**

Winter will be here before we know it. If you believe in predictions, based on our current weather patterns, we could be in for a bitterly cold winter. Some things you can think about and prepare for now include:

1. Have your furnace cleaned and checked.
2. Make and test a family communication plan in case you need help.
3. Have a car emergency kit in the trunk of your vehicle in case you get stuck or stranded.
4. Protect your back by shoveling properly and lift with your legs.
5. Have at least three (3) days of supplies at home for food, water, medications, etc. in case inclement weather forces you home bound for a period of time.

There is so much more to discuss that a short letter cannot cover it all. Hopefully, you will have been inspired to check out the various on-line emergency planning websites located through most any search engine on the Internet.

Be well and Stay Safe!

Dan Carlson, Sergeant  
Emergency Management Coordinator