



Employees' Retirement System Communicator

September, 2011

No. 9

Contact Information

Employees' Retirement System

Please contact the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) at **414-278-4207** in Milwaukee or **toll-free at 877-652-6377** outside of Milwaukee for all Pension questions, including Retirement calculations. You can also contact ERS via email at ers@milwcnty.com.

Life & Health Benefits

Please contact the Benefit Division with Life and Health Benefits related questions at: **414-278-4198**. You can contact Benefits via email at benefits@milwcnty.com

Newly Retired

July

John Beardsley
Barbara Beres
Elizabeth Boyd
Ronald Crown
Bruno Glapinski
Anthony Hardison
Deborah Hartlerode
Daniel Hodel
Donald Hoke
Dana Kasprzak
Karla Kazianka
Eugenie Kelly
Mary Lynch
Linda Pachucki-Hyde
Virginia Quesada

DON'T BE CAUGHT UNPREPARED!

Hurricane Irene, the Washington D.C. earthquake, tornados in Missouri and Oklahoma, the February 2011 Midwest blizzard.....recent events have taught us that disasters and emergencies can strike quickly and without warning. The impact of these disasters is typically most severe for those who have not planned for emergencies. This month's **ERS Communicator** focuses on ways you can protect yourself and cope with disaster by planning ahead.

Make A Plan For What To Do In An Emergency

When disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act. Planning ahead reduces anxiety so prepare now for a sudden emergency. Officials recommend that emergency plans be reviewed annually or as circumstances change.

- Talk with your family members, friends, neighbors and others in your support network. Share your concerns with them. Arrange for someone to check on you at the time of a disaster.
- Plan the best escape routes out of your home and evacuation routes out of your neighborhood. Consider practicing them in advance.
- Plan for transportation if you need to evacuate to a shelter.
- Inventory the contents of your home and take photos or videos of the interior and exterior. Store these off the premises in a safe location.
- Place copies of vital documents and records (personal identification, Social Security and health insurance cards, wills, bank statements, etc.) in a weatherproof container that can be grabbed quickly in case of evacuation.
- Stay informed about the emergency plans and procedures that exist in your community.
- Decide on a safe place to reconnect in case of evacuation.
- Choose an out-of-town contact person. It is often easier to make a long distance call than a local call from a disaster area since local cellular service may be disrupted and land lines will probably be down.
- Plan for your pets' care. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you. Do not leave them behind. They could become trapped or escape and face life-threatening hazards. Some disaster shelters do not accept pets, so it is important that you plan ahead. Contact your vet or local animal shelter for advice.
- Know how and when to turn off water, gas and electricity; contact your utility company in advance to discuss emergency procedures.

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- Keep an emergency checklist readily available to make sure you don't forget anything important.

Create an Emergency Supply Kit

An emergency supply kit is a collection of basic items you may need to survive until help arrives. Services such as electricity, gas and water may be cut off for days. Relief experts advise a minimum three-day supply of food, water and medicine. By planning ahead you can avoid waiting in long lines to purchase supplies. You will want to have your kit packed and ready in a designated easily accessible location. Here are some suggestions for creating your emergency supply kit:

- ⇒ Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- ⇒ Non-perishable food (preferably foods not needing electricity for storage or preparation)
- ⇒ Manual can opener (if kit contains canned food)
- ⇒ Mess kits containing paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- ⇒ Battery-operated portable radio (with plenty of extra batteries)
- ⇒ Flashlight (with plenty of extra batteries)
- ⇒ First aid kit and emergency medical manual
- ⇒ Sanitation and hygiene items, including plastic garbage bags and ties
- ⇒ Change of clothing appropriate for weather conditions
- ⇒ Blanket or sleeping bag for each person
- ⇒ Prescriptions and extra glasses
- ⇒ Pet supplies
- ⇒ Cash (small bills) and coins

Stay Informed

It's important to be informed about emergencies that could happen in your community and to identify sources of information that will be helpful before, during and after an emergency. Think about both natural and man-made disasters and your risk from those hazards. Know how local authorities will warn you of a pending or current disaster situation and also how they will keep you informed before, during and after a disaster.

Consider purchasing an NOAA Weather Radio available at most electronics stores. It is a 24-hour source of weather forecasts, watches, warnings and non-weather emergency information provided by the National Weather Service. Some models allow you to program the radio to alarm for severe weather and hazardous conditions that affect your immediate area.

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Summary and Reminders

Retirees may require an extra level of preparedness due to the effects of aging. For example:

- ⇒ Do you have any physical, medical, thinking or learning limitations?
- ⇒ Has your sense of hearing or vision decreased?
- ⇒ How good is your sense of smell?
- ⇒ Are you dependent on any medical equipment?
- ⇒ Do you rely on a caregiver?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, take responsibility by planning now. Gather essential supplies in advance by creating an Emergency Supply Kit.

Listen for information on TV and radio about hazardous weather and other events. Heed the advice of local officials. If told to evacuate, do so right away.

Contact your local governmental offices in advance for information about what to do during an emergency. Find out what warning systems are in place in your community.

Remember that emotional reactions to emergencies are not unusual. Keep a positive attitude and remind yourself of your strengths. Support and getting help are important; don't be afraid to ask for what you need. As the saying goes, "Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst."

Useful Websites

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

Department of Homeland Security: www.ready.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration: www.noaa.gov

AARP: www.aarp.org

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Newly Retired Members

July (cont'd)

Barry Savasta
Robert Ullrich
Anna Walston
Christopher Ward
Suzanne Watkins
Bryant White
Mary Wynhoff

August

Brian Anderson
Carol Anger
Donald Arndt
Olivia Ausbon
Ronald Bannier
Robert Bentson
Dianne Blain
Sharon Broncatti
Letha Carr
Beverly Collier
Denise Colombo
Claudia Dolphin
Karla Fajembola
Judy Faken
Bonnie Fehring
Glenn Fieldbinder
Beverly Gandy-Leroux
Julie Gingrass
Judith Gordon

Roosevelt Hall
Christine Hallen
Oza Holmes
Kathleen Horgan
Darral Hortman
Jean Marie Kedziora
Sally Kowalewski
Violet Lafrombois
Carolyn Lee
Josephine Liphford
Linda Malik
Melvin Mattox
Lyle McGuire
Allen Meyers
Cheryl Miller
Kathern Mravik
Debora Nash
Norbert Novak
Dannice Oates
Lillian Perez

Harold Puchalski
Frederick Renner
Victor Salbashian
Gwendolyn Salton
Elix Sims
Alexandra Smith
Jerry Spruill
Marie Taylor
Donna Tuma
Kathy Weak
Valerie Werner
Bryan Williams
Stanley Zaleski
Toni Zarzynski

In Memoriam

Please keep the families of these recently deceased retirees and spouses in your thoughts:

Anne Bub
Carol Coy
Sharon DiPronio
Catherine France-Parker
Margaret Gruszkowski
Elizabeth Hawes-Schulz
Richard Hepner
Donald Holub
Edith Karsten

Beatrice Kind
Delores Lynch
Gerald McGinley
Audrey Mielke
Arnold Ode
Jean Platz
Arthur Quade
Eleanor Rozek
James Sanders

Frances Scholz
Orville Schweitzer
Raymond Semerad
Joan Sommers
Irene Tyborski
Walter Uehling
James Weber
Stephen Wood