

# What if there was an Emergency in Justice?

Worldwide there were 138 disasters last year. Recently, the village board, department heads and members of our community formed the Emergency Disaster Preparedness team. This team, led by the Bridgeview Emergency Management Agency and the Red Cross were given lessons on preparing for a disaster.

While none of us want to ever have to put our emergency plan into action, we want to share some important information for our residents. Having an emergency plan in place has been proven to save lives. We would like to address three important topics in emergency preparedness.

- Sheltering in Place
- Preparing Your Family for an Emergency
- What Can the Community Provide in an Emergency

## Sheltering in Place

Unless your home is the cause of the emergency (fire, flood, etc...), families should have the ability to seek shelter within their own home - (Sheltering in Place). Depending on the emergency, your family should have a plan in place for these events. The most common emergencies in our area are weather related: storms and flooding.

Unless you live in a mobile home, the safest place to go during a se-

vere weather incident is a basement or solid interior room without windows. Our residents in mobile homes should ask park managers for protocol during a tornado.

## Preparing Your Family for an Emergency

It is important for your family to discuss what to do in an emergency. One person in the home, usually a parent or guardian is the person in charge at the home. This person will let the rest of the family know if it is time to move to the home shelter area.

Once an emergency is happening, it is too late to gather items needed in an emergency. Where ever you have your shelter, you should have some items ready and waiting. This "Emergency Kit" should include the following...

- Bottled Water
- Non-perishable food items
- A whistle for each member of the family
- A flashlight with extra batteries
- A portable radio
- Blankets
- First aid kit
- A change of clothes

## What Plans are in Place for the Community

The Village of Justice has an EMERGENCY SHELTER PLAN in place. We have

identified 4 shelters within our village and additional places in Bridgeview as needed. We also utilize our reverse 911 system when possible to let residents know what plans are in place. Here is the emergency plan for our residents:

## After the Emergency

- Residents who need shelter should make their way to the Village Hall at 7800 Archer Road
- Unless the Village Hall is damaged, it will serve as the primary shelter for the village
- If you are unable to transport yourself to the Village Hall, call 708-458-2120 or dial 911 for assistance (If phone lines are down, first responders will find you!)
- If needed, the Emergency Preparedness team will open additional shelters

The most important thing to remember during an emergency is try to stay calm and focused. Together with the police department and fire department, communication during a disaster is key. Please discuss your plan with the family and feel free to ask any public official or volunteer for information.



**"It is important for your family to discuss what to do in case of an emergency."**

**EMERGENCY SHELTER**