DANGER SIGNS OF LOCAL EMERGENCIES

TORNADO

What to do:

Look for hail, strong winds, green clouds, or a funnel cloud.
Listen for public warnings, emergency alerts, or neighborhood sirens.
Go to a basement or windowless room. If your home is unsafe or you are in a car or mobile home, seek shelter at public buildings nearby.

What to Know:

Storms may take out power and can blow heavy debris, like branches, up and around.

FLOOD

What to do:

Look for heavy rain, quickly melting snow, late thaw, or high rivers.
Listen for public warning or emergency alerts.
Go to a safe place that is high and dry.

What to know:

Water in your home can cause damage to electricity, personal belongings, and can create mold that is harmful to breathe.

Center for Earth, Energy & Democracy

HEAT WAVE

What to Do:

Look for high temperatures and humidity levels.

Listen for public warnings and weather forecasts.

Go to shaded areas, a basement, or public cooling centers, like libraries or malls.

What to Know:

Children, elderly, outdoor workers, and those with pre-existing health conditions are **most at risk** for fatigue or heat stroke.

Homes without AC, on upper floors, or on streets lined with concrete will be **hotter**.

Stay out of the afternoon sun.

Avoid strenuous activities and wear light clothing.

Drink plenty of **water** and take cool **showers**.

Get help if you feel dizzy or sick.

BLIZZARD/EXTREME COLD

What to Do:

Look for low temperatures or heavy snow.

Listen for public warnings and weather forecasts.

Go indoors to avoid frostbite or hypothermia; use safe heating sources.

Quick tips:

Block drafts in your home and close off unused rooms.

Insulate water pipes or leave a slow drip to prevent pipes from freezing.

If outdoors, cover your skin, wear warm layers, stay awake, and keep moving your body.

Use caution when walking or driving near ice

AIR POLLUTION

What to Do:
Look for fog.
Listen for public warnings or neighborhood sirens.
Go as far away from the source as possible.

TOXIC SPILL

What to Do:
Look for fog and heat.
Listen for public warnings, neighborhood sirens, or a knock on your door from firefighters for evacuation.
Go as far away from the source as possible.

What to Know for both:
You may have trouble breathing; those most at risk are children, elderly, and people with asthma.
There is greater exposure to pollutants if you live near highways, railways, industrial facilities, or work outdoors.
Air quality is worse in heat and fog.

Quick Tips for both:
Reduce exposure by covering your mouth and nose using a mask or scarf.
Keep pollution out of your home by closing all windows and vents; you can cover gaps with plastic and tape.

FIRE

What to Do:
Look for smoke or glowing flames.
Listen for smoke alarms.
Go to gather all household members and quickly evacuate.
Call 911 as soon as you are safely outside.

Quick Tips:
Exit your home as soon as you see smoke, smell gas, or hear an alarm.
Feel a door for heat before opening to avoid burns.
Never use elevators during a fire.
Do not enter a building on fire.
If you are inside during a fire, stay low in a crawl position; cover your mouth and nose and seal doorways with a damp cloth.
If your clothes catch fire, STOP, DROP, and ROLL.

BLACKOUT

What to Do:
Look for natural glowing lights.
Listen for neighborhood sirens.
Go indoors.

Quick Tips:
Use battery powered lights rather than candles to avoid a fire.
Unplug electrical items to avoid a damaging power surge when electricity returns.
Leave the refrigerator closed to retain its temperature.
Fill the bathtub, sinks and buckets for washing, drinking and flushing.
If it is cold outside, turn off the main water supply valve.