

Emergency Notifications '14

When a disaster or other emergency occurs, it is important that you are able to be alerted of the emergency and have a way to stay informed about the emergency. Your life could depend on it. There are several steps residents and businesses in Manheim Township can take to ensure they receive official and timely information about emergencies. Keep in mind that no single system can alert you to every emergency and you should not rely on a single system since that system could be damaged in a disaster.

- **"Weather" Alert Radio:** The National Weather Service (NWS) in State College can issue emergency notifications for severe weather events, including tornados, severe thunderstorms and flooding that are received by a weather alert radio. However, this system is also part of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Emergency officials can request activation of the weather alert radios in the event of a chemical spill or other life-threatening emergency. It is not only important that you have a weather alert radio, but that you also keep it on at all times, not just when bad weather is forecast. You never know when an emergency may strike.
- **Wireless Emergency Alerts:** Most new cell phones have the capability to receive both weather alerts and amber alerts. To ensure you receive weather and other Emergency Alert System notifications, the weather alerts feature must be enabled on your cell phone.
- **Lancaster County 911:** They have the ability to call your landline phone in the event of an emergency and play a brief recorded message. This system will NOT be used to alert you for severe weather emergencies. Cell phones, Comcast voice-over-ip phones and Vonage phones in most cases cannot be reached through this system.
- **South Central Alerts:** The South Central PA Task Force, a regional organization that coordinates inter-county emergency services, has an additional notification system that is voluntary. With this system you can register multiple phone numbers, cell phone, Comcast phone, etc., and email addresses to be alerted about an emergency either by voice message or text. This system will NOT be used to alert you for severe weather emergencies. To sign-up go to www.scitfpa.org/sc-alert.
- **Manheim Township website:** The Fire Rescue and Emergency Management Agency area of the Manheim Township website contains safety, preparedness and contact information. In the event of a major disaster, this page will be updated with important information. The link for this is www.manheimtownship.org, then click on the Emergency Preparedness button on the left-hand side of our homepage.
- **Manheim Township "News Flash":** You can sign-up to be notified of various events in Manheim Township, including traffic and crime alerts, as well as fire and emergency management alerts. This system will NOT be used to alert you for severe weather emergencies, but will be used for all other emergencies that require public notifications. You can sign-up for Fire and Emergency Management alerts at www.manheimtownship.org by clicking on **"E" services**.



Office of Emergency
Management

- **Manheim Township Emergency Management Twitter:** Manheim Township has a Twitter account that you can follow for official information regarding current emergencies and preparedness actions you can take. The Twitter account is [@ReadyManheimTwp](https://twitter.com/ReadyManheimTwp).
- **Manheim Township Fire Rescue Facebook:** Manheim Township Fire Rescue has a Facebook account that contains fire safety information as well as information about recent incidents. Their Facebook page can be found under **Manheim Township Fire Rescue**.



Visit Our Website At: www.manheimtownship.org



Manheim Township Fire Rescue
Office of Emergency Management
1840 Municipal Drive
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601



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Visit us on the web: www.manheimtownship.org

Shelter-In-Place

In Manheim Township, hazardous chemicals travel on our roadways and on rail lines. Some facilities also use and store hazardous chemicals. Fortunately there have been no major incidents of this type here for several years. However, we want to make sure you have the information to protect yourself, your families and your employees in the event such an incident would occur.

For an incident involving the release of hazardous chemicals, emergency officials may issue an advisory to "shelter-in-place". This advisory is used when conditions may be too dangerous for an evacuation to occur and it is safest to keep people where they are. When you are advised to "shelter-in-place", you should do the following:

- Bring your family, employees and pets inside.
- Lock and close all doors and windows.
- Turn off all heating and air conditioning systems to prevent outside air from being drawn in.
- Retrieve your emergency supply kit.
- Move to a room above ground level (most hazardous chemicals are heavier than air).
- If instructed, seal windows, doors and air vents with plastic and duct tape.
- Stay informed with television, radio and Internet sources for official updates.

It is possible that a "shelter-in-place" advisory will last for several hours. The priority for emergency officials is to ensure your safety, and they will lift the advisory as soon as it is safe to do so.

