



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

Dickinson County

818 Pyle Drive, Kingsford, MI 49802
Ph: (906) 774-1868 Fax: (906) 774-9910
BRANCH OFFICE

www.didhd.org

Iron County

601 Washington Avenue, Iron River, MI 49935
Ph: (906) 265-9913 Fax: (906) 265-2950
MAIN OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:

Kelly Rumpf, 779-7234



2007 – Michigan's Year of Public Health Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Kicks off "Be Prepared – Protect Your Family" Month in April

Kingsford and Iron River, Michigan, March 30, 2007 - Disasters can happen at any time. The potential of severe weather, e-coli outbreaks, pandemic influenza, or a hazardous materials accident are just a few of the would-be disasters that have raised concerns among many Dickinson and Iron County residents. While the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is working to protect the community in the event of an emergency, health officials are urging everyone to take responsibility for the safety of their family and be prepared for all emergencies.

"In an emergency, your safety and the safety of your family may depend on decisions made in a few seconds," said Sheila McNulty, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. "Be prepared - have a plan and supplies, remain calm, stay informed, and be ready to activate your disaster plans."

Here are some things that families can do to prepare for a potential disaster:

- Be proactive, not reactive. Create a family emergency plan and talk about it ahead of time – taking action before an emergency occurs helps people deal with disasters of all sorts much more effectively when they do occur.
- If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. Your family emergency plan must include your pets. Being prepared can save their lives.
- If a winter storm, power outage, or other disaster strikes your community, you might not have access to food, water, and electricity for several days. You may need to survive on your own after a disaster. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least three days.
- Keep a battery operated radio nearby.

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is committed to promoting wellness, preventing disease, providing health care, and protecting the environment. For additional information about preparing for an emergency and protecting your family visit our website at www.didhd.org or call the Health Department at (906) 774-7202 or (906) 265-9913.

Public Health Week in Michigan will also be celebrated the week of April 15, 2007. The theme for Public Health Week is "Take the First Step! Preparedness and Public Health Threats: Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation's Vulnerable Populations".

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To celebrate this event the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is hosting an Open House to be held at the Kingsford office, 818 Pyle Drive, on Monday, April 16th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. and at the Iron River office, 601 Washington Avenue, on Thursday, April 19th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Please stop by and meet our staff, tour our building, have refreshments and view a variety of educational booths and material. You may also enter your name to win a Family Emergency Preparedness Starter Kit, one to be given away in each county.

Additional information about the “**Public Health – For Michigan, For You.**” slogan and “**2007: The Year of Public Health**” can be found at www.malph.org.

Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Serving the Community Since 1936 in Health Protection, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

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