



# Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

## Dickinson County

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Kicks off “Be Prepared – Protect Your Family and Community” Month in September**

Kingsford and Iron River, Michigan, September 2, 2008 - 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 Carol Thornton, 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 in the event of a weather related disaster or at least two weeks in the event of a pandemic.
- Keep a battery operated radio nearby with extra batteries.

For further information on preparedness visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is committed to promoting wellness, preventing disease, providing health care, and protecting the environment. For information about infectious disease prevention and services, visit [www.didhd.org](http://www.didhd.org) or call your local health department.

Additional information about the “**Public Health – For Michigan. For You.**” slogan can be found at [www.malpb.org](http://www.malpb.org).

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