



## NATURAL DISASTERS

Every Hoosier knows that tornadoes are a part of life in Indiana. We are also effected by floods, winter storms, and extreme heat. The New Madrid and Wabash Valley faults are not too far away causing concern for earthquakes as well. The Harrison County Health Department will assist other agencies during a natural disaster and will assist the community after the disaster to provide health and welfare needs for the prevention and spread of disease.

### Bottom line...

There are many things we need to plan and prepare for and everyone needs to do their part.

- Put together a home emergency kit.
- Make plans on how to contact family members.
- Be ready to act if anything should happen.

We all hope that we never need to use these plans and preparations but wishful thinking will not prevent emergencies from happening and will not help anyone in the long run.

### HARRISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

241 Atwood Street, Suite 200  
Corydon, Indiana 47112  
Phone (812) 738-3237  
Fax (812) 738-4292

[www.harrisoncountyhealth.com](http://www.harrisoncountyhealth.com)

# Planning and Preparedness



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## Why do we need to plan and what are we preparing for?



### **TERRORIST ATTACKS**

After 9/11, Americans have become keenly aware of just how devastating a terrorist attack can be. Terrorists already have or could acquire an arsenal of destructive power. Biological, chemical and radiological, or "Dirty Bomb", attacks are just some of the possible scenarios that could effect our citizens. While these types of events are not as likely to happen in Harrison County, our close proximity to major metropolitan areas, major roads, rail corridors, and waterways, do make it likely that an incident could have some effect here. The Harrison County Health Department is developing plans to immunize or provide medication to the population in the event an attack affects the health of the citizens of Harrison County.



### **HAZMAT INCIDENTS**

Motor vehicle and industrial accidents happen every day. Even though private companies and government agencies do their best to provide safe operations and transport of hazardous chemicals there is always the chance of something going wrong. The accidental release of a hazardous chemical could cause anything from mild irritation to death depending on the chemicals involved and amounts released. The Harrison County Health Department works with and assists first responders, emergency medical services, and emergency management in protecting the health of people who could be involved.



### **PANDEMIC DISEASE**

The H5N1 strain of avian flu has killed over 32 people in Thailand, Vietnam and China. While this version of influenza virus currently cannot be spread between humans, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) believes it is just a matter of time before the virus changes into a form that is highly infectious.

This deadly influenza virus, its milder cousins, SARS, hepatitis and many others are just some of the illnesses that could affect our community. The Harrison County Health Department is developing plans to immunize or provide anti-viral medication to the population in the event of an epidemic that affects the health of the citizens of Harrison County.

