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# Child Care Emergency Preparedness Report

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Results from the 2013 Survey of Missouri's  
Child Care Facilities

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Division of Regulation and Licensure  
Section for Child Care Regulation

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Tornadoes, earthquakes, explosions and other disruptive or disastrous events frequently reported in the news remind us of the challenges these types of events create for child care facilities. Earlier this year (2013) the Department of Health and Senior Services (**DHSS**) Section for Child Care Regulation (**SCCR**) conducted an **Emergency PREPAREDNESS Survey** of all child care facilities in Missouri. The survey asked questions concerning the development and content of emergency plans. SCCR received **568** anonymous responses.

The data we gather from this survey helps us identify opportunities for improving emergency preparedness within the child care industry in Missouri. The results are aggregated in this report to be distributed to child care facilities, local emergency management agencies and local public health agencies.

Response rates for each type of child care facility are as follows:

	<b><u>Emergency Preparedness Survey</u></b>
• Family Child Care Home:	165/1248 = 13.2% response rate
• Group Child Care Home:	31/164 = 18.9% response rate
• Child Care Center:	322/1984 = 16.2% response rate
• <u>License Exempt:</u>	<u>50/531 = 9.4% response rate</u>
	568/3927 = 14.5% overall response rate

*To review criteria for facility types see <http://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/lawsregs.php>. Under "Regulations" click on 19 CSR 30-62.010, Licensing Rules for Group Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers. See pg 3, paragraphs (4), (9), & (11).*

## **Analysis and Recommendations:**

1. Child care providers take seriously their responsibility to protect the children in their care and take steps to plan and prepare for emergencies or disasters. All facilities should have an "all hazards" emergency plan and it is important that providers test and review that plan to ensure it is viable. SCCR provides an easy to use Emergency Plan Template to help facilities create their emergency plan (EP). SCCR also provides a free, 1-clock hour online Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Training in Child Care for staff (see EP Resources below).
  - 97% of respondents indicate they have a written emergency plan.
  - 91% have reviewed and updated their plan in the last 12 months.
  - Only 33% of all responding facilities have utilized the free online Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Training in Child Care.
2. Child Care facilities are encouraged to involve their local emergency management office, the local fire department and others in their emergency planning. At the very least, facilities should know how to reach their local Emergency Management Director.
  - Only 37% include their local Emergency Management Office contact information in their plans.
  - 92% and 91% respectively include the contact information for their local police and fire dept.
3. The first step in writing an "all hazards" emergency plan is to identify potential hazards for your facility. Plans should include alternate facility locations with realistic transportation options and appropriate emergency supplies. The data provides the following indicators:
  - Only 61% report having Weather Alert Radios on hand.
  - 98% of plans address Fire and Tornado.
  - 82% of plans address Threatening Visitor/Intruder.
  - 71% of plans address Earthquake
  - An average of 51% of plans address all other hazards listed – flood; chemical spill; carbon monoxide; power failure; bomb threat; kidnapping; nuclear accident; missing child.

4. Training, testing and exercises can identify plan weaknesses and areas for improvement. Plans should include a specific training regimen for staff and an exercise schedule that tests different parts of the plan. Facilities are encouraged to participate in community emergency preparedness exercises that could double as an educational event for children and their parents.
  - 38% of respondents participate in community emergency preparedness exercises coordinated by their local emergency management organization.
  - 51% distribute free *Ready in 3* materials to families.
  - 77% have tested facility evacuation and 59% have tested Lock-down procedures in the last 6 months.
  - 83% of staff has CPR/first-aid certification.
  - Only 57% receives regular training on the use of a Fire Extinguisher.

SCCR hopes these survey results and recommendations will assist child care facilities and communities in their emergency planning efforts. SCCR will continue to provide information and resources to facilities and child care associations as we all work to ensure that Missouri child care facilities are prepared for any type of emergency. SCCR welcomes any questions concerning the survey or emergency planning in general at (573) 522-1333.

The pages which follow (pg 4-7) show specific response rates for questions from the Child Care Emergency PREPAREDNESS Survey, by facility type.

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## Emergency Planning Resources

1. **Emergency Plan TEMPLATE** for Child Care facilities: <http://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/forms.php>
2. Child Care **Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Online Training**:  
<http://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/training.php>
3. Ask your **local fire department** for advice and assessment of your emergency plan.
4. Go to the **Missouri StormAware** website at <http://stormaware.mo.gov/> for information.
5. **Ready in 3** Disaster and Emergency Planning for schools, seniors, adult care, childcare facilities, families, etc:  
<http://health.mo.gov/emergencies/readyin3/>
6. Work with your local **Emergency Management Director** for planning guidance and questions specific to your facility. To find your local **Emergency Management Agency**, see the SEMA website: <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/>. Scroll down to the box titled *Contact Your Local Emergency Management Agency*.
7. Contact your **State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Area Coordinator** in your region for additional planning & preparedness information. SEMA Area Coordinator look-up:  
[http://sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/area\\_coordinator.asp](http://sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/area_coordinator.asp).
8. Contact your **Local Public Health Agency**: <http://health.mo.gov/living/lpha/lphas.php>. They may have an emergency planner that can be of assistance.
9. The **Red Cross** has planning tools, specific disaster preparedness information and a **Ready Rating Program** that can help a business or agency determine their preparedness level and suggest improvements:  
<http://www.redcross.org/prepare> or <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/workplace>.

# Emergency PREPAREDNESS Report

Indicate the capacity (or licensed capacity, if applicable) for the number of children in your facility.

Q3					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
15 or fewer	164	5	9	0	178
16 to 25	1	26	35	6	68
26 to 50	0	0	78	14	92
51 to 100	0	0	127	18	145
101 to 250	0	0	66	11	77
250 or greater	0	0	7	1	8

Do you have a written Emergency Plan?

Q4					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Yes	99%	100%	98%	84%	97%
No	1%	0%	2%	16%	3%

If you have a plan, have you reviewed and updated your plan in the last 12 months?

Q5					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Yes	95%	94%	93%	60%	91%
No	3%	3%	5%	24%	6%
Not Applicable – no plan	2%	3%	2%	16%	3%

Have you or any of your staff utilized the free, 1- clock hour, online Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Training in Child Care available on the DHSS, SCCR website?

Q6					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Yes	33%	39%	36%	10%	33%
No	67%	61%	64%	90%	67%

How many of your staff (including yourself) have CPR/first aid certification?

Q17					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
% staff with CPR/first aid	92%	93%	83%	78%	83%

**Does your emergency plan contain the following emergency contact information?**

Q7					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Ambulance Service	83%	87%	82%	58%	80%
Local Emergency Mgmt Office	37%	39%	39%	24%	37%
Local Police Department	92%	94%	95%	76%	92%
Local Red Cross	22%	29%	27%	12%	24%
Local Sheriff's Department	67%	74%	61%	26%	60%
Regional SCCR Office	28%	26%	28%	4%	26%
Children's parent/guardian phone #	98%	90%	91%	76%	92%
Your Staff Phone Numbers	83%	77%	81%	66%	80%
Local Fire Department	87%	84%	95%	78%	91%
Local Public Health Agency	42%	39%	52%	24%	46%
Electric Utility	49%	45%	50%	22%	47%
Utility – water, sewer, gas, phone (avg)	40%	39%	43%	22%	40%
Not Applicable – no plan	1%	0%	2%	12%	2%

**Please check each of the following situations your plan addresses.**

Q8					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Fire	99%	97%	99%	86%	98%
Tornado	99%	97%	99%	86%	98%
Flood	55%	48%	56%	16%	51%
Chemical Spill	53%	55%	57%	30%	54%
Carbon Monoxide	55%	42%	51%	32%	50%
Power Failure	75%	74%	71%	36%	70%
Bomb Threat	47%	48%	69%	50%	60%
Threatening Visitor/Intruder	70%	90%	89%	72%	82%
Kidnapping	48%	48%	52%	30%	48%
Earthquake	62%	71%	78%	54%	71%
Nuclear Accident	27%	26%	18%	8%	20%
Missing Child	53%	52%	61%	40%	57%
Not Applicable – no plan	1%	0%	1%	12%	2%

**Does your staff receive regular training on use of the following emergency equipment?**

Q9					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Emergency Generator	12%	0%	2%	0%	5%
Fire Extinguisher	67%	61%	55%	38%	57%
Communication equipment	29%	26%	42%	26%	36%

**What communication capabilities does your facility have available for emergencies?**

Q10					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Land Line (cordless)	87%	87%	64%	72%	73%
Land Line (non-cordless)	68%	100%	55%	56%	61%
Cellular phone(s)	96%	100%	98%	100%	98%
Weather Alert Radio	53%	68%	65%	60%	61%

**Do you participate in community emergency preparedness exercises coordinated by your local emergency management organization?**

Q11					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Yes	31%	32%	45%	20%	38%
No	69%	68%	55%	80%	62%

**Have you developed relationships with community emergency planners listed below?**

Q12					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Local Emergency Management Dir	13%	13%	16%	16%	15%
Police	45%	71%	70%	66%	62%
Fire Department	50%	68%	73%	76%	66%
Public Works Personnel	15%	19%	17%	8%	16%
Local Public Health Agency	35%	39%	43%	20%	38%

**Do you encourage families enrolled at your facility to take steps to prepare for emergencies by distributing *Ready In 3* materials?**

Q13					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Yes	55%	45%	54%	24%	51%
No	45%	55%	46%	76%	49%

**Do you routinely educate the parents of the children in your care on your facility's emergency plan and how they will be notified in the event of an emergency?**

Q14					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Yes	87%	84%	80%	50%	79%
No	12%	16%	19%	36%	18%
Not Applicable – no plan	1%	0%	2%	14%	2%

**Do you routinely request pre-authorization for Emergency Care and transportation from parents or guardians?**

Q15					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Yes	77%	71%	85%	64%	80%
No	23%	29%	15%	36%	20%

**Which of the following components of an emergency plan have you tested in the last 6 months?**

Q16					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Evacuation of the facility	71%	84%	80%	72%	77%
Lock-down procedures	49%	45%	68%	38%	59%
Emer Notification of Parents/Guardians	34%	23%	32%	14%	30%
Missing child	8%	10%	16%	8%	13%
Fire (required every month)	98%	100%	99%	96%	99%
Tornado (required every 3 mths)	99%	97%	98%	96%	98%
None of the above	1%	0%	0%	2%	1%

**Are the following evacuation locations included in your plan?**

Q18					
2013	Family Home	Group Home	Center	License Exempt	All Respondents
Nearby location	99%	100%	98%	84%	97%
Out of area location	75%	74%	67%	16%	65%
Not Applicable – no plan	1%	0%	2%	16%	3%

**What type of emergency/disaster planning assistance would be most beneficial to your facility?**

The bulk of the answers to this question fell under the following topics or categories:

- (68) **Training and help with Emergency preparedness plans - including sample plans and on-site training;**
- (54) **Planning for specific types of events – tornado, nuclear, fire, chemical spill, earthquake, etc;**
- (42) **Intruder/lock-down;**
- (20) **Community collaboration and participation;**
- (16) **Evacuation, transportation and transfers;**
- (14) **Supplies/emergency kits/weather radio;**
- (10) **Information for families;**
- (15) **Other**