

Weather Preparedness
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Even though I've been back in Minnesota for two years, six years in Arizona has left me a little weather deprived. Yes there were clouds, dustings of snow, and monsoon rains but nothing like the actual seasons or thunderstorms here in the Midwest. I confess that a steady downpour with rumbles is music to my ears at bedtime, though I know many people would have a different opinion. Regardless of opinions toward the weather though, it's going to happen whether we like it or not. If severe weather makes you nervous or you feel anxious from changes in the climate, then take a deep breath and remember that preparedness can prevent panic and practice can preempt going to pieces.

Did you know that our library is part of the Climate Resilience Hub nationwide network? It's made up of nonprofit organizations, local and county government departments, churches, and other groups that want to improve their community's preparedness for extreme weather events and their effects. Hubs put on at least one event a year to educate their community and create conversations about preparedness and positive change. They also make a number of informational resources available. Last year the New Ulm Public Library hosted an emergency preparedness fair in partnership with a number of community organizations during National Emergency Preparedness Month in September. We hope to do it again this year. We also have a lot of great informational and activity related resources for individuals and families to improve their emergency preparedness. You can find a lot of them readily available at the top of the stairs in the adult nonfiction section. We have materials available in Spanish as well.

The library also facilitates the New Ulm Interfaith Emergency Preparedness Council to help educate and train local faith communities to be better prepared to respond and help during and after a weather emergency. The library has a number of training materials and informational resources available for presentations for organizational leadership or organizations as a whole. We'd be happy to present an emergency preparedness training for your faith community or other organization to assess needs and get people thinking and planning to be prepared. We're grateful to Brown County Emergency Management and New Ulm Emergency Management Committee for their partnerships in helping our community be safe and prepared.

If you've been wondering how to start preparing for weather emergencies either physically, financially, or emotionally, check out the resources on ready.gov and stop by the library. We'd be happy to get you the tools you need to get started!

The library is located at 17 N. Broadway and is open to the public Monday to Thursday 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.