



The CERT Monthly

Grand Island-Hall County
Community Emergency Response Team

March 2010

Upcoming Events:

CERT Monthly Training:

- Mar 2, 7pm
Meth Lab Awareness
- Apr 14, 6:30pm
Weather Spotting

CERT Basic Training (Dates Changed)

- Feb 12 (eve.), 13,
Mar 16
Lincoln Park
Fire Station, Hastings

Online at:
cert.gihams.org

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January 2010 – The Cold Continues

January 2010 saw another winter month of below normal average monthly temperatures at Grand Island and Hastings.

Average Temperature

Grand Island's average temperature was 20.0 degrees, 2.4 degrees below normal.

Hastings had an average temperature of 20.6 degrees, 3.0 degrees below normal.

Precipitation

Grand Island received 0.54 inches of precipitation, normal for the month. Snowfall at Grand Island totaled 5.6 inches.

Hastings received 0.23 inch of precipitation, 0.32 inch below normal. Snowfall at Hastings totaled 3.4 inches.

January Records

Grand Island - January 9. New record low temperature of -16 degrees. The previous record was -15 degrees set in 1974.

Hastings - January 9. New record low temperature of -15 degrees. The previous record was -14 degrees set in 1982.



A sun dog shines behind a snowplow clearing Sky Park Road of drifts created by blowing snow near the Central Nebraska Regional Airport on Thursday morning. Bitterly cold temperatures combined with high wind chill and blowing snow made for potentially dangerous conditions throughout the area. *Photo by Grand Island Independent*

Noteworthy weather incidents in the region:

January 2: Snowfall of 1 to 4 inches fell during the day, adding to the snowpack already on the ground.

January 6-9: An arctic airmass brought snow, gusty winds and bitterly cold temperatures and wind chills.

January 7: Sundogs appeared in the sky during the morning and evening.

January 1-9: For most locations across south central Nebraska and north central Kansas, the first nine days of January 2010 made the Top 5 for the coldest on record.

January 25: Strong northwest winds had gusts over 50 mph in several locations.

Meth Lab Awareness

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive stimulant drug that dramatically affects the central nervous system. It is usually illegally produced and distributed.

Meth comes in several forms, including powder, crystal, rocks, and tablets. When it comes in the crystal form it is called "crystal meth."

Meth can be taken by swallowing, snorting, smoking, or injecting it with a hypodermic needle.

Unlike drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, which are derived from plants, meth can be manufactured using a variety of store bought chemicals.

The most common ingredient in meth is pseudoephedrine or ephedrine, commonly found in

cold medicine. Through a cooking process the pseudoephedrine or ephedrine is chemically changed into meth.

The ingredients that are used in the process of making meth can include: ether, paint thinner, Freon®, acetone, anhydrous ammonia, iodine crystals, red phosphorus, drain cleaner, battery acid, and lithium (taken from inside batteries).

Meth is often manufactured or "cooked" in very crude laboratories. Many of these labs are not sophisticated operations and do not require sophisticated chemistry equipment. And the people who cook the meth usually do not have any chemistry training. Cooking meth is relatively simple, but dangerous and toxic.

Every pound of meth

made can generate up to five pounds of toxic waste that may seep into the soil and groundwater.

The manufacturing process generates toxic fumes. These fumes can severely harm anyone exposed to them. Meth labs also generate highly explosive gases.

Many children are rescued from homes with meth labs or meth using parents. Meth, chemicals, and syringes are all within reach of these children. Parents high on meth neglect their children.

Millions of our tax dollars are spent each year to clean up meth labs, to care for Drug Endangered Children, and to pay for law enforcement to deal with the meth problem.

Resources

- US Dept. of Justice
www.justice.gov



Common meth lab materials.



Physical affects of meth use.
Multnomah County, OR Sheriff's Department

Shelter in Place

There are other circumstances when staying put and creating a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside, a process known as "sealing the room," is a matter of survival.

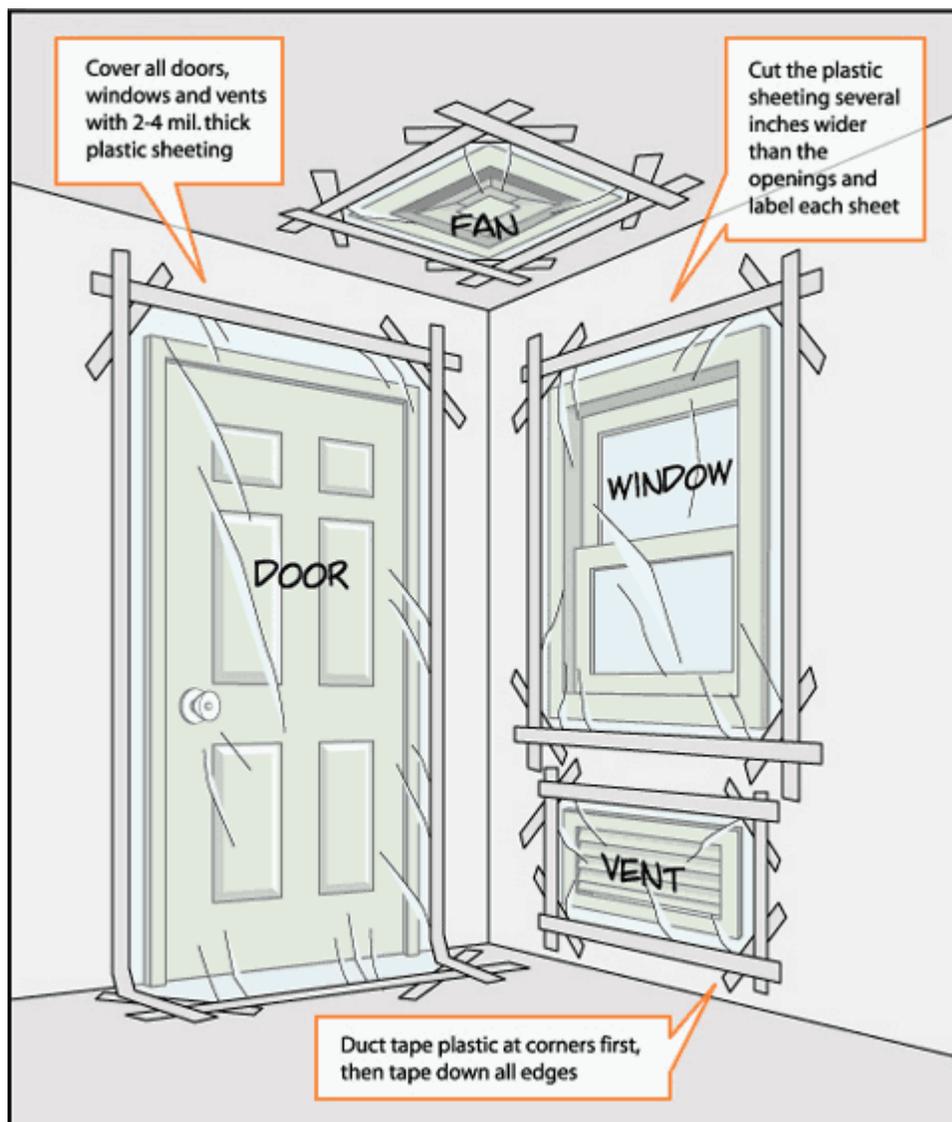
Use available information to assess the situation. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may want to take this kind of action.

The process used to seal the room is considered a temporary protective measure to create a barrier between you and potentially contaminated air outside. It is a type of sheltering in place that requires preplanning.

In case you are instructed to turn off your utilities:

- Locate the electric, gas and water shut-off valves.
- Keep necessary tools near gas and water shut-off valves.
- Teach family members how to turn off utilities.
- **If you turn the gas off, a professional must turn it back on. Do not attempt to do this yourself.**

For more information, go to www.ready.gov.



To "Shelter in Place and Seal the Room"

- Bring your family and pets **inside**.
- **Lock** doors, **close** windows, air vents and fireplace dampers.
- **Turn off** fans, air conditioning and forced air heating systems.
- **Take your emergency supply kit** unless you have reason to believe it has been contaminated.
- **Go into an interior room** with few windows, if possible.
- **Seal** all windows, doors and air vents with plastic sheeting and duct tape. Consider measuring and cutting the sheeting in advance to save time.
- Be prepared to **improvise** and use what you have on hand to **seal gaps** so that you create a barrier between yourself and any contamination.
- You should **watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet often for official news** and instructions as they become available.



Grand Island—Hall County Emergency Management

100 East First Street Grand
Island, Nebraska 68801

Phone: (308) 385-5360
Fax: (308) 385-5378

beready@grand-island.com

www.grand-island.com/ready

Training Opportunities

CERT Basic Training

- TBA

CERT Continuous Training

Regular Hall County CERT training meetings are scheduled the 1st Tue of every month, 7pm.

- March 2, 7pm, Station #1 – Meth Lab Awareness
- April 14, 6:30 pm, City Hall, National Weather Service Severe Weather Spotting
- May 4, 7pm, Station #1 – Animal Diseases & Ag Preparedness

Other Training Opportunities

Night w/ EMS – St. Francis Memorial, 2116 West Faidley Avenue. Second Mondays, 7pm.

Free admission, no registration needed. www.nemsa.org.

March 8 – Back to the Basics

April 12–Farm Accidents

May 20 - Summer Heat Emergencies

Red Cross Training – Contact Renae Foster at 382-3790 or Renae@giredcross.org.

All Red Cross Training above is located at 404 E. Third St. in Grand Island.

More training opportunities and activities are found on the CERT online calendar
<http://cert.gihams.org>.

Contact Jennifer Green for information regarding Training Opportunities

CERT Email Group

If you send an email to: gicert@googlegroups.com you will effectively be emailing everyone in our CERT membership. It's a way to share information via email with the entire group, without having to know everyone's email address. Feel free to bring up topics of interest to the group, ask questions, or share information that might be of interest to the other CERT members.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Roger Hammond directly at: rahammond@charter.net

Where should I Shelter in Place?

The best room to use for the shelter is a room with as few windows and doors as possible. A large room with a water supply is best—something like a master bedroom that is connected to a bathroom.