

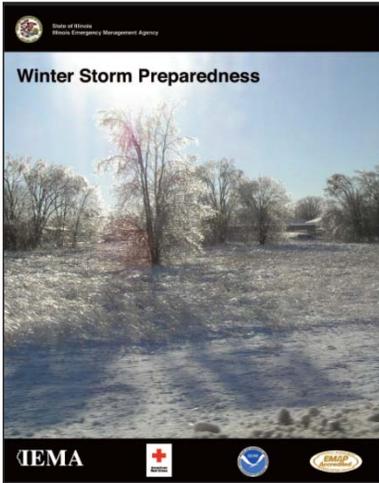


Rock Island Arsenal Preparedness Newsletter



www.ria.army.mil/sites/riapo/

Winter weather preparedness



A very good winter weather preparedness guide provided by Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is located at the following link: http://www.iema.illinois.gov/iema/disaster/pdf/iema333_winter_storm_preparedness_guidebook.pdf

Winter Storm Survival Kit for Travelers:

- ❖ Extra clothing to keep dry
- ❖ Booster cables
- ❖ Compass and road maps
- ❖ Sack of sand (or cat litter)
- ❖ Shovel
- ❖ Tool kit
- ❖ Knife
- ❖ A smaller can and water-proof matches to melt snow for drinking water
- ❖ A large empty can and plastic cover with tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
- ❖ Tow rope with loops (avoid chains & hooks if at all possible)
- ❖ Cell phone and charger
- ❖ Blankets/sleeping bags
- ❖ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ❖ First-aid kit
- ❖ High calorie, non-perishable food
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Windshield scraper and brush

Springtime severe weather preparedness



IEMA has updated their Severe Weather Preparedness guide <http://www.iema.illinois.gov/iema/disaster/pdf/severeweatherpreparedness.pdf>

Quad Cities Outdoor Warning Siren Guidelines:

These guidelines determine when the outdoor sirens will sound and those outside should go indoors and seek additional information.

- ❖ Tornado Warnings
- ❖ Tornado or funnel cloud reported by trained spotter
- ❖ Severe Thunderstorm warning with winds of 70+ mph and/or golf ball+ sized hail
- ❖ Severe Thunderstorm report from a trained spotter with winds of 70+ mph and/or golf ball+ sized hail
- ❖ Local Hazardous Materials release or other emergency where shelter in doors is required

Severe weather drill date and time: 8 March 2011, 10:00 am

DROP - COVER - HOLD ON!



"The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut" is an earthquake drill that will be held on April 28, 2011, at 10:15 a.m. IEMA is encouraging schools, businesses, government agencies, families and others to register now to participate in the drill, which will highlight "Drop, Cover and Hold" protective actions people should take when an earthquake begins. <http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>



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OPERATIONAL SECURITY (OPSEC)



OPSEC, also known as Operational Security, are the principles that we should all abide by when talking about our soldiers. If you've been on any military related message board on the internet, you have more than likely seen a warning to be sure to practice OPSEC. This means protecting the information you know about your soldier and their unit.

Generally, it means that you should not give out the following:

- Your soldier's exact location overseas
- Any information on troop movements – this includes any movement while they are deployed, in transit to/from theater, etc. Do not ever give dates.
- Any information on weapons systems, how they train or numbers – for this reason, many pictures from overseas can easily violate OPSEC

If your soldier is in a special operations unit, the OPSEC guidelines can be stricter. You may not be able to say they are deployed at all much less where they are.

Always abide by the rules set forth by their unit. Just because it is on the news does not mean that you can talk about the issue. By talking about it, you are only verifying the information.

CORRECT:

- My soldier is deployed in support of Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom

INCORRECT:

- My soldier is in XYZ Unit and is stationed at ABC Camp in XXX city in Iraq.
- My soldier's unit is returning from deployment and flying into XYZ Airport at 8pm next Tuesday.

Never give dates or times for troop movements. This includes R&R dates as well as deployment dates. Planes have been known to be delayed for days or weeks because this information was made public by an excited spouse.

DEPLOYMENT TICKERS

Many spouses like to use deployment tickers to count down their soldier's deployment. Never have a ticker that shows XX days until they return. If you must have a ticker, then have one with the amount of time they have been gone.

Finally, for your own personal safety, be very aware of what you are putting on the internet or in conversations in public. With the internet, it is not difficult to track down an address and phone number. Do not make yourself a target by letting the world know that your spouse is deployed.