

## In this Issue: Disaster Preparedness

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Dear Reader,

There is a phenomena before a winter storm - runs on the supermarket for bread, milk, and other essentials; and if the word "blizzard" is uttered, for all manner of snow removal equipment, generators, etc. If prescriptions are running low, maybe a run to the pharmacy for a refill. And for the consumers of alcohol-containing beverages – a likely stop by the store to stock up. That same behavior-inducing action operates on a lower level if the weather forecast calls for rain...we close windows, grab our umbrella, and maybe our rain gear. In all cases, hopefully we adjust our driving habits (or abstain from driving at all until the storm has passed. All of these actions are preparedness, and in the case of driving, very active "engagement and response" with the conditions as they present themselves.

These actions which we take for ourselves, and on behalf of our families and loved ones, are the proverbial “tip of the iceberg” of the much larger processes that public health, transportation, power companies, hospitals, local, state, and federal entities, and many others take in preparation. And all that is only in regard to the weather.

In the words of Benjamin Franklin: “By failing to prepare,  
we are preparing to fail.” And failure is not an option.

One could argue preparedness is a state of mind and resources – aligned and coordinated for maximum response against all manner of threats. That is what this issue of the Journal is about. This has been a special issue to coordinate, and we want to recognize one individual for their tireless work pulling all of this together - Donna Sharp. Donna’s official title of “Events Coordinator” for the Division of Public Health doesn’t quite expand to encompass her passion for public health and Delaware, nor her encyclopedic connections to anyone and everyone. Donna, thank you.

As always we look forward to your feedback, suggestions for future issues, and wish you good health as we enter into the winter holiday season.

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