



SPRING SAFETY REMINDERS

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Preventing the Spread of Illness

- Wash your hands frequently
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Time to Change the Clocks

Daylight Saving Time begins every year on the second Sunday in March. We "lose" an hour when the clocks are set forward, and for many, that means a tired couple of days as our bodies adjust. The consequences of fatigue can be serious, so plan accordingly.

Smoke Alarms

Three out of every five home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Test your smoke alarms every month and replace the battery at least once a year. If the alarm makes a "chirping" sound, replace the battery immediately. For more info visit: www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/23947-smoke-alarms-dont-last-forever/



Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Anything that burns fuel can potentially become a source of carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless gas that can kill. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each bedroom and on every level of the home. The safety tips for CO detectors mirror those of smoke alarms: change the batteries, test them and interconnect them, if possible. Also, make sure vents for your gas appliances (fireplace, dryer, stove and furnace) are free and clear of snow or debris. For more information go to: www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/23520-protect-against-carbon-monoxide-poisoning/

Family Emergency Plan

The National Safety Council recommends every family have an emergency plan in place in the event of a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. Spring is a great time to review that plan with family members. Have a home and car emergency kit. Visit the [FEMA website for a complete list](#).

Get Rid of Unwanted Medicines

NSC recommends you take unwanted or expired medicines to a prescription drop box or take-back event near you.

Window Safety

The 1st full week of April is Window Safety week. With warmer temperatures on the way, it's important to practice window safety – especially in homes with young children. Find more information about window safety at: [Window Safety Week - National Safety Council](#)



National Prescription Drug Take Back Day - April 25, 2026, 10AM to 2PM

Southwest Michigan Spring Drug Take Back Events



In Southwest Michigan, residents can participate in spring drug take back events organized by local law enforcement and community organizations. These events provide a safe and convenient way to dispose of unused and expired prescription drugs, helping to prevent misuse and environmental harm. Here are some key details about the events:

Location: Events are held at various locations across Southwest Michigan, including hospitals, pharmacies, and community organizations.

Time: Events typically occur on weekends, with specific times set for each location. .

Process: Participants can drop off their unused medications in their original containers or in a zip-lock bag. Free Narcan (Naloxone) rescue kits may be available at some events.

Importance: Proper disposal of unused medications is crucial to prevent misuse and protect the community.

Residents are encouraged to participate in these events to help ensure safe disposal of medications. For More information on specific events and locations, residents Can check local news sources or the DEA/U of M website at:

[Spring cleaning time: April 27 event helps Michiganders get opioids & more out of their homes](#)

Facts about prescription drug misuse:

The United States is currently experiencing an epidemic of prescription drug misuse and abuse. Since 1999, overdose deaths involving prescription opioids have quadrupled. Every day, 130 Americans die from an opioid-related overdose – more than the number of people killed in car accidents or by guns.

Every 10 minutes a child visits the emergency room for medication poisoning, and 12.5 million people age 12 and older misused opioids in the last year. Three in five teens say prescription pain medication is easy to get from their parents' medicine cabinet.



Mar 8, 2026 - Daylight Saving Time Starts

When local standard time is about to reach Sunday, March 8, 2026, **2:00:00 am** clocks are turned **forward** 1 hour to Sunday, March 8, 2026, **3:00:00**

Spring into Safety

Spring cleaning safety is not normally on people's minds when they begin to haul out all those cleaning supplies and equipment, but it should be.

Everyday we need to be careful when going about our household chores, but when you really start tearing the house apart and moving things around during spring cleaning, especially with all those cleaning supplies and equipment out, it is doubly important to keep safety in mind.

1. Do not rush because you are tired or in a hurry.
2. Be careful moving large pieces of furniture and appliances.
Use proper lifting technique, keeping your back straight and lifting with your legs.
3. Be safe while on ladders and step stools.
4. Be careful when walking on wet surfaces.
5. Keep stairs, landings, and walkways clear of boxes, bags and other clutter.
6. Don't carry too much stuff at once, especially on stairs.
7. Always follow cleaning product label safety instructions and recommendations.



Cleaning supplies can create nasty fumes, so make sure you get some fresh air by opening windows, turning on the exhaust fan, or placing a fan in the room.

In addition, do not mix ammonia and bleach together, both of which are common household cleaners, because they create toxic fumes when combined.

When in doubt don't mix, just use one product to get the job done.

You should also wear rubber gloves to keep your hands from getting dry and cracked from the hot water and chemicals.

You can **find additional information on household product safety at www.laddinc.net**

Scroll towards the bottom of the Home Page and click on **Safety Data Sheets Database & Recalls**

8. Wear a mask when cleaning dusty areas.
This may seem like overkill to some, but if you are at all allergic to dust this tip is very important.
9. Do not leave buckets filled with water around your home.
Even if you need to take a quick break make sure you empty that cleaning bucket, or at least put it in an inaccessible area.
Even small amounts of water are a drowning hazard for small children.
10. Put away all your cleaning supplies when you are done.
When you finally finish your spring cleaning tasks for the day it is easy to say to yourself, "I'll put these away later," or "I am just going to use these again tomorrow, so I'm keeping them out."

Cleaning supplies are an attractive nuisance for our children and pets, something inviting that they should definitely not be getting into.

Put the cleaning products away in a childproof cabinet for your children's safety and well-being as soon as you are done with them.

Follow these spring cleaning safety tips from Safewise.com to have a safe and productive spring cleaning!



Spring Clean up & Recycling Events

Did you know many communities have programs each Spring to assist residents seeking to rid their households of old and unwanted items?



DOWAGIAC SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEK

Dowagiac's Citywide Cleanup program *Every first Saturday of the month through October*, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Dowagiac compost site. Please Check the City's Website at: <https://www.cityofdowagiac.com/> for details and confirmation of dates.

Direct questions about Dowagiac's spring clean-up program or inquire about disposal alternatives to the city Department of Public Services at: 782-8200.

Berrien County Parks Department conducts community recycling collection events for a variety of items. Go to: <https://www.berriencounty.org/564/Berrien-County-Community-Recycling-Event> to see a list of recycling events.



Cass County Please check the website at: <https://www.casscountymi.org/>
Or Call 445-4420

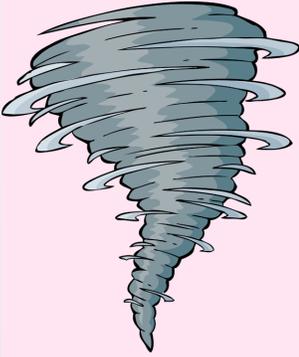
Van Buren County Please check the website at: <https://www.vanburencountymi.gov/384/Recycling-Cleanup-Events>

City of Marshall Go to: <https://www.cityofmarshall.com/311> for information.

Contact your city, village or township offices to see if a disposal or recycling program is available in your area.



Tornado Safety



Most US tornados occur **between March and June**. Although favorable conditions for tornados can occur at any time, they are most common in spring and least common in winter. Because spring is a transitional period for the climate, there are more chances of cooler air meeting with warmer air, resulting in more thunderstorms and tornados.

Some 1,200 tornados touch down across the United States each year, most commonly in the spring months, a transition time when unsettled weather is more likely to occur.

LADD has a CORPORATE EMERGENCY PLAN which is located in the Emergency Guide book at each service location as well as online on the LADD website at www.laddinc.net.

There are Three keys to success in preparing for Emergencies; Plan, Practice, and Respond.

For Tornados LADD has a plan in place, Responding to Natural Disasters.

We practice our response by participating in Tornado Drills at each location from March thru October.

By practicing the plan you will be familiar with action steps which will result in knowing how to respond.

Know the difference between Tornado watch and warning.

At LADD Staff must take immediate and appropriate action when a tornado watch or warning occurs.

TORNADO WATCH: A tornado watch is issued by the National Weather Service when weather in a particular area could produce tornados (often this means thunderstorms are in the area). But it doesn't mean tornados will definitely occur, it means you need to be alert and paying attention to weather updates.

TORNADO WARNING: means that a tornado has been spotted on the ground in your area or the storm circulation seen on the Doppler radar could produce a tornado. Now is the time to seek shelter.



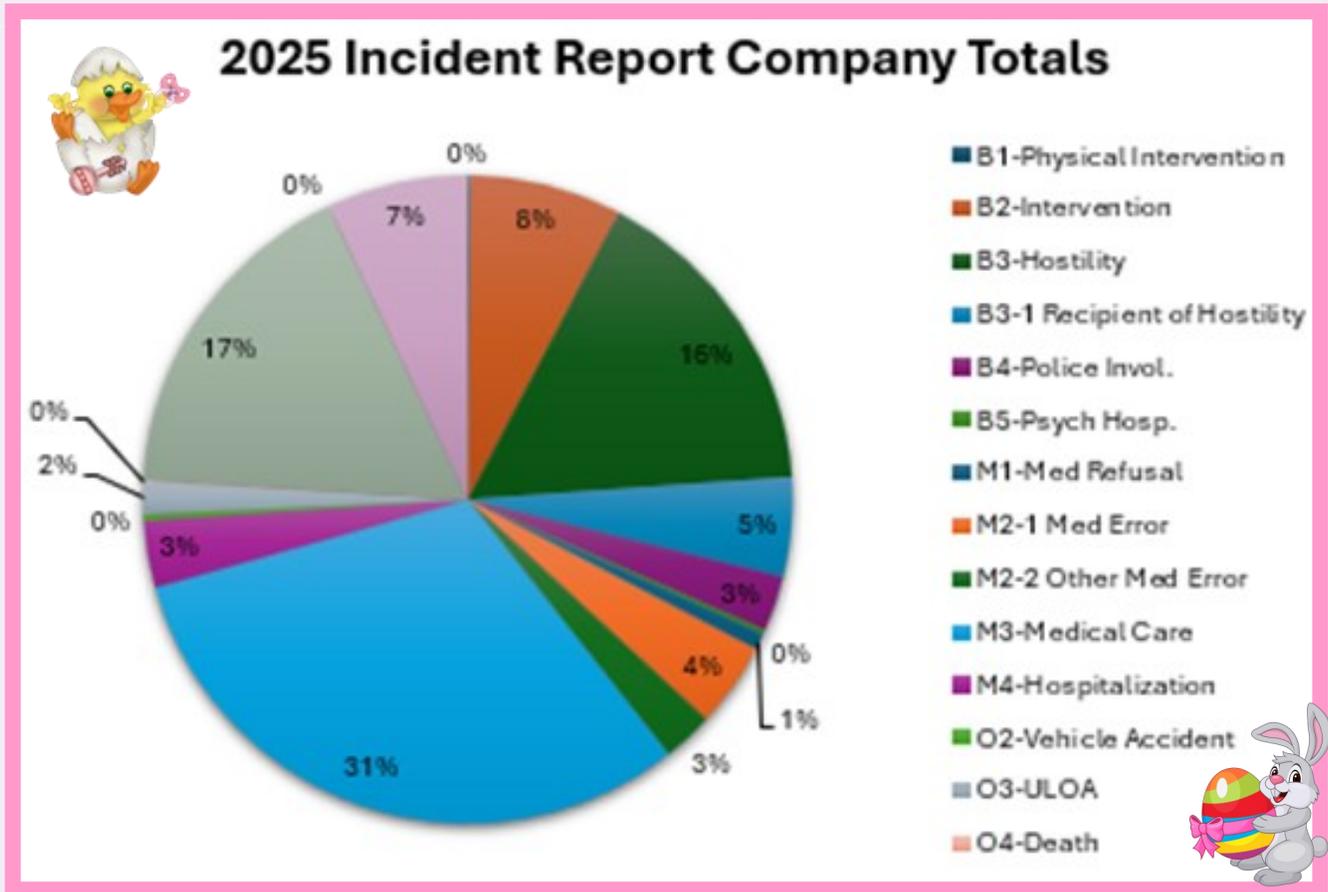
Weather Alerts

West Location: To sign up for severe weather alerts please visit www.wsbt.com

Central Location: To sign up for severe weather alerts please visit www.woodtv.com/more/text-alerts

2025 Annual Incident Report Data

Incident Reports are consolidated into a report provided by the Quality Assurance Department on a quarterly and annual basis to the Regional Directors and Supervisors for review with their individual teams. This review is designed to generate discussion regarding trends, preventative, and corrective action.



REMINDER

All incident reports are to be turned into QA on the 15th of each month for the previous month.

LADD management may view detailed incident Report Data in:

OneDrive/shares/manager/company reports/





Spring Seasonal Checklist



Remember to complete the Spring Seasonal Checklist in the Maintenance Book at each location

- If applicable- Air conditioner/Furnace inspection / routine maintenance by a qualified contractor.
- Windows washed, screens cleaned, repaired & installed. Storms stored.
- Downspouts & gutters inspected/cleaned. Extensions & splash blocks in place.
- Basement / Crawl space inspected for dampness, rodents or insects.
- Remove accumulated debris from exterior. Clear bases & trim shrubs / trees. Replace eroded soil around new driveways. Plant annual flowerbeds. Repair damaged sod / grass. Replace decorative stone or landscape bark areas where needed.
- Inspect ceiling areas for leaking of roof. Visually inspect for loose / damaged shingles.
- Inspect siding, brickwork, exterior paint, and power wash if needed.
- Inspect exterior decks and driveways (seal if needed).
- Inspect solar yard lights (replace if needed).
- Begin lawn care / fertilization program consistent with neighborhood expectations including shrub care (fertilize, insecticide, trimming).
- Inspect / clean trash containers. Replace bent / cracked units, missing lids.
- Bathroom exhaust fans cleaned.
- Cold and hot air registers cleaned and repainted if needed.
- Clean bathroom drains.



Did you Know ?

L.A.D.D., Inc. has a Quality Improvement Department.

The Quality Improvement Team works across multiple systems at L.A.D.D. and are responsible for improvements and updates of all functions of daily operations.



Wishing You A
Happy Easter



Thank You — From your EMC Committee

Thank you for taking the time to read our EMC Newsletter.

If you have any questions or comments please contact a member of the committee.

Your EMC Committee

Donna O’Konski, Melissa Miles, Marie Williams, Regina Hemminger, Brett Rankin, Jessica Irvine and Sharon Dodd..