

Disaster Preparedness

“WHAT EVERY HOMEOWNER SHOULD KNOW”



After a disaster you may need to survive on your own for three or more days. Are you prepared? Below you will find some tips on how to prepare for a disaster.

Supply Kits

Several different situations could arise that would require you to have a supply kit ready.

For this reason you should have several different kits.

- A disaster supply kit with food, water, and supplies for three days should be packed and ready to go. All family members need to know the location of the kit. This kit needs to be in easy to carry containers such as a backpack or trashcan, so that it can be taken with you if you need to leave your home quickly.
- A two-week store of food, water, and supplies should be kept at the home in case you must remain in the home for an extended amount of time.
- You should have a supply kit at work. It needs to be in an easy to carry container. The kit should consist of the essentials you need to survive in case you are required to evacuate the building.
- An emergency supply kit should also be placed in your car. This kit should include food, water, flares, jumper cables, and supplies for the season. In winter the kit needs to include blankets to keep warm. In the summer it should include extra water.

Water

- Water should be the number one priority when preparing your kit. It is essential for human survival and cannot be rationed.
- The general guideline for water storage is at least one gallon of water per person per day. Keep in mind that children, nursing mothers, and ill people need more water and that in hot weather everyone needs more water.
- Water needs to be stored in clean containers that cannot break. Do not store water in bottles that held chemicals at one time.
- Containers for water need to be rinsed with a diluted bleach solution. (One part bleach per ten parts water)
- Seal water containers tightly and store them in a cool dark place
- Stored water needs to be changed every six months.

Food

- Food can be rationed except for pregnant woman and children.
- Put familiar foods that your family will eat in the kit.
- Canned foods, and dry mixes including ready to eat meats, fruits, vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix, vitamins, instant coffee, cereals, powdered milk, cookies, and foods for infants or people with special diets could be placed in the kit.
- Food should be stored in a cool, dry place.
- Boxed foods need to be stored in plastic or metal containers.
- Food items should be replaced every six months.



*For more information go to www.os.dhhs.gov/disasters/index.shtml or www.ready.gov