



AN
**EMERGENCY PREPARED
COMMUNITY**



IN COOPERATION WITH
POLK COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

2002

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Purpose:

To have an outreach program designed to increase citizen, family, neighborhood, and community basic preparedness actions to raise their chances of survival and enhance their ability to cope with a disaster.

Objectives:

1. To encourage and facilitate organized emergency preparedness activities in neighborhoods and communities,
2. To build awareness of threats and hazards,
3. To provide information and useful materials, and
4. To foster interest in a coordinated approach to disaster preparedness on a neighborhood level through existing community based programs.

Tasks:

To help each participant:

1. Identify what hazards they face in their community,
2. Develop family emergency planning and response steps,
3. Identify responsibilities for each participant,
4. Establish a method for participating and maintaining their plan.





Are You Ready?

The primary hazards in Polk County are severe storms (summer and winter), flooding, tornadoes, fires, and chemical spills or releases. An extensive warning and communications system is in place to alert citizens to imminent danger. However, when a disaster does occur, it will take the cooperative effort of all elements of our community to restore a normal state for all concerned. The basic building block is the family unit. The greatest resource for any community is its people. They also have the most at stake...their families.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State of Iowa, and Polk County and the City of West Des Moines all have disaster plans. However, the public at large has little if any conception of how these plans affect their family. In an effort to educate the families in disaster preparedness, a concept called "Emergency Prepared Communities" was designed. The purpose of the program is to increase citizen, family, and neighborhood, and community preparedness, thereby boosting their chance of survival and enhance their ability to cope with a disaster.

Families are encouraged to develop:

- ◆ A home fire evacuation plan,
- ◆ Tornado safety and chemical emergency shelter-in-place plans,
- ◆ Put together a three-day disaster kit,
- ◆ Establish near and far contacts in case of a disaster

The hazard analysis is the real cornerstone when calculating your risk to a particular hazard. It involves making assumptions about the magnitude, return frequency, and the potential physical and economic impact of hazards in specific geographic settings. This is calculated by using data sheets for each hazard. On each hazard worksheet, the hazard is named, defined, and then described in more detail. Each hazard is scored in seven separate characteristics of the hazard on a scale of 1 to 9, with 1 being less significant and 9 being more significant of a concern. The scoring categories include:

1. The historical records of the number of occurrences of each hazard,
2. The percentage of land and people who have been and may be affected,
3. The probability of the occurrence in any given area and to the extent possible,
4. The overall impact of the occurrence (injuries, deaths, as well as economic impact to individuals and the community),
5. Duration of the impact,
6. Recovery time,
7. And speed of onset will also factor into the hazard analysis

The total score can then be used to rank the hazards by overall risk they pose to Polk County. Each of the 27 different hazards was placed into one of three priority groups based on its final ranking. The priority groups were established by level of risk the hazard posed to the county and the amount of mitigation that could be done for those particular hazards. As you can see, there are various types of disasters including: natural hazards such as flood, drought, winter storms, summer storms; technological hazards such as transportation incidents, explosions, and dam failures; and a third category that contains hazards such as terrorism, epidemics, and public disorder.

<p><u>Priority Group 1</u> Hazardous Materials Incident Communication Failure Summer Storm Tornado Winter Storm Power Failure Terrorism/Tactical Violence/ Public Disorder Flooding/Levee Failure/Dam Failure</p>	<p><u>Priority Group 2</u> Highway Incident Fire Explosion Structural Failure Waterway Incident Pipeline Incident Railway Incident Air Transportation Incident</p>	<p><u>Priority Group 3</u> Energy Shortage Extreme Heat Drought Erosion/Landslide/Subsidence Enemy Attack Earthquake Radiological Incident</p>
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Over 30 different agencies and organizations provided input and scored each of the hazards. You should evaluate your risk to each of these hazards yourself. This process can identify hazards your family is particularly vulnerable to. To find out more and see the explanation and results of this entire process you can access the Des Moines Hazard Analysis on the web at www.co.polk.ia.us/departments/emrmgt/emrmgt.htm.

Severe Storms

Thunderstorms

The Polk County area is affected on an average of 30-50 thunderstorm days per year. The typical thunderstorm is 15 miles in diameter and lasts an average of thirty minutes. All thunderstorms are dangerous. The offspring of thunderstorms are strong winds, lightning, hail, heavy rain, flash floods and flooding, downburst, and tornadoes.

Only about 10% of storms that occur each year in the United States are classified as severe. The National Weather Service considers a thunderstorm severe if it produces hail at least 3/4 inch in diameter, winds 58 miles per hour or higher, or tornadoes.

Thunderstorms frequently occur in the late afternoon and at night in the Plains States. Although most likely they happen in the spring and summer months, they can occur year round and at all hours.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM (or TORNADO) WATCH: Area where the potential for these storms is likely to occur. Watches are issued by the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, OK when the threat appears. Watches are issued to heighten public awareness anywhere from 2-6 hours before severe weather may develop in a specific geographic area that may include 30,000 square miles.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM (or TORNADO) WARNING: Warnings are issued by the Weather Service Office (WSO) or Warning and Forecast Office (WFO) in their area of responsibility when the threat poses an imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm. A warning is issued based on information reported by spotters or indicated by radar.

Lightning



Source: Gregory Thompson 1994

Lightning occurs with all thunderstorms and is the result of a sudden discharge of the electrical potential between the positive and negative charges generated in a thunderstorm. Lightning produces an electric charge or current that generates an enormous amount of heat - up to 50,000° Fahrenheit. The rapid heating (expansion) and the cooling (contraction) of the air near the lightning channel causes a shock wave that results in **thunder**.

More deaths are attributed to lightning each year than tornadoes and hurricanes combined. Most lightning deaths and injuries occur when people are caught outdoors.

Lightning also causes several hundred million dollars in damage to property and forests annually.

A cloud to ground lightning strike begins as an invisible channel of electricity charged air moving from the cloud towards the ground. When one channel nears an object on the ground, a powerful surge of electricity from the ground moves upward to the cloud and produces the visible lightning strike!

MYTHS:

If it is not raining, there is no danger from lightning.

The rubber soles of shoes and tires on a car will protect you from a lightning strike.

People struck by lightning carry an electrical charge and should not be touched.

"Heat lightning" occurs after very hot summer days and poses no threat.

FACTS:

Lightning often strikes outside heavy rain and may occur as far as ten miles away from any rainfall.

Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal. Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.

Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be assessed and treated immediately for injuries or need for resuscitation.

What is referred to as "heat lightning" is actually lightning from a thunderstorm too far away for thunder to be heard. However, the storm may be moving in your direction.

Flash Floods/River Floods

This offspring of the thunderstorm is the number one natural hazard killer each year. Most flash flood deaths occur at night trapping people in automobiles. The two key ingredients that contribute to flash flooding are rainfall intensity and duration - the rate the rainfall and how long it lasts. Other factors include topography, soil conditions, and ground cover.



Flash floods occur within minutes or hours of excessive rainfall. Most flash flooding is caused by slow moving thunderstorms or thunderstorms repeatedly moving over the same area.

Polk County is prone to flash flooding along many creeks and rivers including Four Mile Creek, Walnut Creek, Yeader Creek, Jordan Creek, Mud Creek, and Camp Creek. Flash flooding is also possible in other low-lying areas and streets. Residents should know the potential in their area for flooding or flash flooding. **Even 6 inches of fast moving floodwater can knock you off your feet, and a depth of two feet will float your car!** Never try to walk, swim, or drive through floodwaters. If you live within a floodplain, contact your insurance agent and verify that you carry flood insurance on your property.

Straight-line Winds and Downbursts

Straight-line winds are responsible for most thunderstorm wind damage. Winds can exceed 100 miles per hour. One type of straight-line wind is the downburst.



A downburst is an area of rapidly descending air beneath a thunderstorm. The strong winds usually approach from one direction and may be known as "straight-line" winds. They can, in extreme cases, cause damage equivalent to a strong tornado causing significant damage to some buildings. A downburst greater in size than 2.5 miles is called a macroburst. A downburst smaller than 2.5 miles is called a microburst. Microburst may be wet (with precipitation) or dry (not associated with precipitation).

Tornadoes

Tornadoes occur most frequently in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. A tornado is defined as a violently rotating column of air extending from thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with speeds of 250 miles per hour or more. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.

Although these violent tornadoes comprise about 2% of tornado occurrences, some Iowa tornadoes have the potential to be the most violent. Iowa has an average over 30 tornadoes annually since 1950 when the National Weather Service started keeping statistics. Polk County alone has had 38 tornadoes since 1950.



MYTHS:

Areas near rivers, lakes, and mountains are safe from tornadoes.

The low pressure with a tornado causes buildings to "explode" as the tornado passes overhead.

Windows should be opened before a tornado approaches to equalize the pressure and minimize damage.

FACTS:

No place is 100% guaranteed safe from a tornado. In the 1980's, a tornado swept through Yellowstone National Park leaving a path of destruction up and down a 10,000-foot mountain.

Violent winds and debris slamming into buildings cause the most structural damage.

Opening windows allows damaging wind to enter the structure. Leave the windows alone; instead, immediately go to a safe place.

Large Hail

The strong rising currents of air within a storm, called updrafts, carry water droplets to an altitude where freezing occurs. Ice particles grow in size, finally becoming too heavy to be supported by the updraft and fall to the ground. Large hailstones fall at speeds faster than 100 mph. Hail causes \$1 billion dollars in damage annually. The costliest United States hailstorm was in Denver, Colorado, July 11, 1990. Total damage was \$625 million.



Action Steps

Before the Storm...

- ☂ Know the name of our county. Teach your family members, especially children that we live in Polk County, Iowa so they can recognize watch and warning areas that apply to our location
- ☂ Check weather forecasts before leaving for extended time outdoors. Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent.
- ☂ Watch for signs of approaching storms. Have a radio with you to receive updated weather information
- ☂ Check on those who have trouble taking shelter if severe weather threatens.

Thunderstorm Safety...

- ☂ Remember: if you can hear thunder you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning, seek safe shelter immediately. Go to a sturdy building or car immediately.
- ☂ If boating or swimming, get to dry land and seek shelter immediately.
- ☂ If lightning is occurring and a sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hardtop vehicle and keep the windows up.

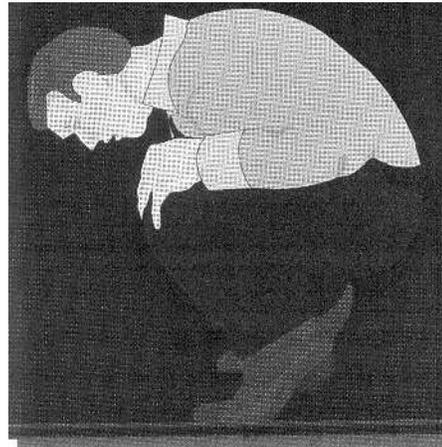
- ☂ Telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances not necessary for obtaining weather information. Avoid using telephone or any electrical appliance. Use phones only in an emergency. Turn off air conditioners. Powers surges from lightning can over load compressors, damage electrical appliances, and cause fires.
- ☂ Do not take a bath or shower.
- ☂ Get to higher ground if flash flooding or flooding is possible. Once flooding begins, abandon cars and climb to higher ground. Do not attempt to drive through water. (Most flash flood deaths occur in automobiles.)

If Caught Outdoors and No Shelter is Nearby...

- ✎ Find a low spot away from trees, fences, and poles. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.
- ✎ If you are in the woods, take shelter under shorter trees.
- ✎ If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stands on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest possible target possible, and minimize your contact with the ground.



NOAA



NOAA

After the Storm Passes...

- ✎ Stay away from storm damaged areas.
- ✎ Listen to the radio for information and instructions.

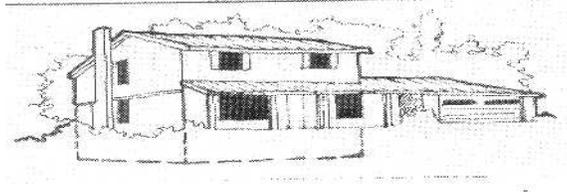
NOTE: Polk County Tornado Sirens are programmed to only run for 3 minutes at a time. You should stay "in shelter" for fifteen (15) minutes after the warning has been issued.

Tornado Safety

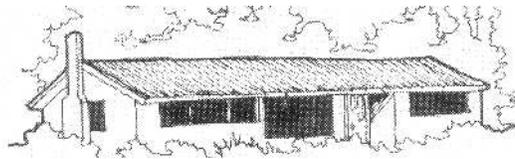
Indoors...

Have a pre-designed safety spot

- ☛ Go to the lowest level possible in a structure.
- ☛ Put as many walls between you and the outside as you can.
- ☛ Avoid windows and glass



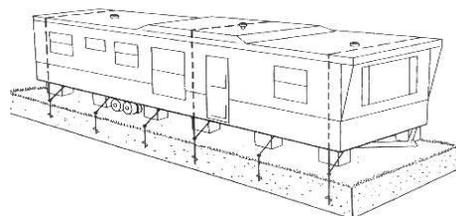
- ☛ In a basement stay under the center support beam, a stairwell, or heavy piece of furniture for protection from falling debris. Stay out of corners; debris often collects in corners.



- ☛ If you have no area below ground level, utilize a hallway closing doors off to outside rooms. Any small interior room (a bathroom or closet) away from outside walls and windows would be preferable to large or rooms with outside walls.

Outside or homes of modular construction

- ☛ Get to safe shelter if possible. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car. If caught in the open, leave a vehicle and go to a low-lying area such as a ditch or ravine. Lie flat and cover your head. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned.



Flood Safety

Before...

- ◆ When you receive a flood warning and if advised to evacuate, do so immediately!
- ◆ Move to a safe area before access is cut off by floodwater.
- ◆ Continue monitoring Weather radio, television, or Emergency Alert System (EAS) for information

During...

- ◆ Avoid area subject to sudden flooding.
- ◆ If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, STOP! Turn around and go another way
- ◆ Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road. The depth of the water is not always obvious. The roadbed may be washed out under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped.
- ◆ Children should NEVER play around high water, storm drains, viaduct, or creeks, etc.

After...

- ◆ If fresh food has come into contact with floodwaters, throw it out.
- ◆ Boil drinking water at least 3-5 minutes then let cool before using. Wells should be pumped out and the water tested for purity before drinking. If in doubt, call your local health authority.
- ◆ Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before being returned to service.
- ◆ Use flashlights, not lanterns, torches, or matches to examine buildings. Flammables may be inside.
- ◆ Report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.

Winter Storms

Winter storms are considered deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. Everyone is potentially at risk during winter storms. The actual threat to you depends on your specific situation.

Recent statistics related to winter storm deaths:

- ❄ About 70% occur in automobiles
- ❄ About 25% are people caught out in the storm
- ❄ Majority are males over 40 years old

Related to exposure to cold

- ❄ 50% are people over 60 years old
- ❄ over 70% are males
- ❄ about 20% occur in the home



Serious Situations in Winter Storms

Frostbite

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by the tissue being frozen. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical attention immediately! If you must wait for help, slowly and gently warm affected areas. **DO NOT RUB** affected areas to warm them. However, if the person is also showing signs of hypothermia, warm the body core before extremities.

Hypothermia

WARNING SIGNS - uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, mental confusion (including inability to make decisions or making obviously wrong decisions), clumsiness/lack of coordination, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion.

DETECTION - take the person's temperature. If below 95° F., immediately seek medical attention!

Medical Care is NOT available

Begin warming the person slowly and gently. Warm the torso first. If needed, use your own body heat to help. Get the person into dry clothing, and wrap them with a warm blanket covering the head and neck. Do not give the person alcohol, drugs, coffee, or any hot beverages. Warm liquids are okay if the person is conscious and able to swallow. Do not warm extremities (arms and legs) first! This drives the cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure.

Wind Chill

The wind chill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by combined effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature. Animals are also affected by wind chill. (*Wind Chill Chart 1.1, pg. 25*)

The National Weather Service issues watches and warnings for hazardous winter weather. Keep informed by listening to weather forecasts on radio or TV and reading local newspapers. Know the terms used to describe storm status.

WINTER STORM WATCH - Severe winter weather may affect your area.

WINTER STORM WARNING - Severe winter weather conditions are expected.

ICE STORM WARNING - Damaging accumulations of ice usually 1/4 inch or greater.

BLIZZARD WARNING - Sustained wind or frequent gusts to at least 35 mph and blowing snow, reducing visibility's to a quarter mile or less for 3 hours or longer.

HEAVY SNOW WARNING - Snowfall of 6 inches or more in 12 hours or less, or 8 or more inches in 24 hours or less.

SNOW ADVISORY - Generally from 3 to 5 inches of snow.

BLOWING SNOW ADVISORY - falling or accumulated snow that is blown by strong winds usually lasting 3 hours or more.

FREEZING RAIN or FREEZING DRIZZLE ADVISORY - freezing precipitation that causes hazardous travel and conditions but is below warning criteria.



Plan your travel and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm! **Fully check and winterize your vehicle** before the winter season begins.

- ❄ Battery
- ❄ Wipers and windshield washer fluid
- ❄ Ignition system
- ❄ Thermostat
- ❄ Lights
- ❄ Flashing hazard lights
- ❄ Exhaust system
- ❄ Heater
- ❄ Brakes
- ❄ Defroster
- ❄ Oil level

Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions.

Winter Car Kit

- Flashlights with extra batteries
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Several blankets
- Sleeping bags
- Extra newspapers for insulation
- Plastic bags (for sanitation)
- Matches
- Extra set of mittens, socks, and a wool cap
- Rain gear and extra clothes
- Small sack of sand for generating traction under wheels
- Small shovel
- Small tools (pliers, wrench, screwdriver)
- Booster cables
- Set of tire chains or traction mats
- Cards, games, and puzzles
- Brightly colored cloth to use as a flag
- Canned fruit and nuts
- Non-electric can opener
- Bottled water



Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.

Try not to travel alone.

Let someone know your timetable and primary and alternate routes.

Dress to fit the season. Wear loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers. Trapped air insulates. Layers can be removed to avoid perspiration and subsequent chill. Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellant, and hooded. Wear a hat. Half of your body heat loss can be from the head. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold. Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves. Try to stay dry.

When CAUGHT in a Winter Storm...

Outside

Find shelter. Try to stay dry. Cover all exposed parts of the body.

No shelter: prepare a lean-to, windbreak, or snow cave for protection from the wind. Build a fire for heat and to attract attention. Place rocks around fire to absorb and reflect the heat

Do Not Eat Snow. It will lower your body temperature. Melt it first.

In a Car or Truck

Stay in your car or truck. Disorientation occurs quickly in wind-driven snow and cold.

Run the motor about ten minutes each hour for heat. Open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.

Make yourself visible to rescuers. Turn on the dome light at night when running the engine. Tie a colored cloth (preferably red) to your antenna or door. Raise the hood indicating trouble after snow stops falling.

Exercise from time to time by vigorously moving arms, legs, fingers, and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.

At Home or In a Building

Stay inside. When using alternate heat from a fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc. use fire safeguards and properly ventilate.

No heat. Close off unneeded rooms. Stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors. Cover windows at night.

Eat and drink. Food provides the body with energy for producing it's own heat. Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration.

Fire

House and Building Fires

Fire is the fourth largest accidental killer in the United States. It's also the disaster that families are most likely to experience. Over 80% of all fire deaths occur where people sleep, such as homes and hotels. Most fires occur when people are likely to be less alert such as between midnight and morning. 84% of house and building fires are accidental, such as those caused by poor electrical wiring or careless behavior.

Fire Fatality Data

1. On average, fires kill nearly 5,500 Americans each year
2. Over 30,000 people are injured in fires annually
3. Nearly 25% of fires killing children are started by children playing with fire.
4. Approximately three-quarters of all fire fatalities occur in residential dwellings.
5. Each year, fire causes over \$2 billion worth of damage to homes.

Fire Safety Practices

Install smoke detectors

- ◆ Smoke detectors save lives. Install a battery-powered smoke detector outside each sleeping area, and on each additional level of your home.
- ◆ Use the test button to check each smoke detector once a month. When necessary, replace batteries immediately. Replace batteries at least once a year.

Develop and Practice an Escape Plan

- ◆ Draw a floor plan and determine at least two ways to escape from every room of your home.

- ◆ If necessary, purchase escape ladders and be sure everyone knows how to use them.
- ◆ Select a location outside the house where everyone would meet after escaping.
- ◆ Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

Escaping Safely

- ◆ If you see smoke in your first escape route, use your second way out. If you must exit through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to escape.
- ◆ If you are escaping through a closed door, feel the door before opening it. If it is hot, use your second way out.
- ◆ If smoke, heat, or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Signal for help using a bright-colored cloth at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call the fire department and tell them where you are.
- ◆ Practice to stop, drop to the ground, and roll if clothing catches on fire.
- ◆ Once out, stay out!

Install A-B-C Fire Extinguishers

- ◆ Check the gauge monthly for proper pressure and that the unit is in good condition.

Do Not Store Combustible Materials in Closed Areas or Near a Heat Source

Check Electrical Wiring

- ◆ Replace wiring if frayed or cracked.
- ◆ Make sure wiring is not under rugs, over nails, or in high traffic areas.
- ◆ Do not overload outlets or extension cords
- ◆ Outlets should have cover plates and no exposed wiring

Extreme Heat

Summer heat waves bring unusually high temperatures that may last for days or weeks. In the summer of 1980 a heat wave hit the United States, and nearly 1,700 people lost their lives from heat related illnesses.

People suffer heat-related illnesses when the body's temperature control system is overloaded. The body usually cools itself by sweating however, under some conditions, sweating just isn't enough. The body temperature may rise rapidly, which may lead to damage of the brain or other vital organs.

Factors affecting the body's ability to cool itself during extreme heat include high humidity, old age, obesity, fever, dehydration, and heart disease, poor circulation, sunburn, and drug and alcohol use.

Whether at work or play, summer activities must be balanced with measures that help the body's cooling mechanisms and prevent heat-related illnesses. Those at greatest risk of heat-related illness include: infants and children up to age 4, people 65 years of age or older, overweight people, those who overexert during work or exercise, and people who are ill or are on certain medications. (*Heat Index Chart 1.2, pg. 25*)

Prevention

- Drink plenty of fluids. If on diuretics or fluid-restricted diet, check with your doctor. Avoid very cold liquids (can cause stomach cramps) and alcohol (may cause you to lose more fluid).
- Replace salt and minerals through your diet. DO NOT take salt tablets unless directed by a physician.
- Wear appropriate clothing and sunscreen. Wear lightweight, light colored, loose fitting clothing. In the hot sun, a wide brimmed hat will provide shade and keep the head cool.
- Pace yourself when working or exercising. Schedule outdoor activities carefully.
- Stay cool indoors.
- Use the buddy system when working in the heat. Check on the elderly twice a day.
- Adjust to the environment by limiting exposure to heat for short periods of time.
- Use common sense. Avoid hot foods or heavy meals. Don't leave infants, children, or pets in a parked car. Dress all family members appropriately for the heat and insure all maintain proper fluid intake. Limit sun exposure. Provide fresh water in shady areas for pets.

Hazardous Materials Accidents Chemical Emergencies

A hazardous materials accident can occur anywhere. Communities located near chemical manufacturing plants are particularly at risk. However, hazardous materials are transported on our roadways, railways, and waterways daily, so any area is considered vulnerable to an accident.

Hazardous materials are chemical substances, which if released or misused can pose a threat to the environment or health. These chemicals are used in industry, agriculture, medicine, research, and consumer goods. Hazardous materials come in the form of explosives, flammable and combustible substances, poisons, and



radioactive materials. These substances are most often released as a result of transportation accidents or because of chemical accidents in plants.

Hazardous Materials Data

1. Most victims of chemical accidents are injured at home. These incidents usually result from ignorance or carelessness in using flammable or combustible materials.
2. More than 30 states have passed laws giving workers and citizens access to information about hazardous substances in their workplaces and communities.
3. As many as 500,000 products pose physical or health hazards and can be defined as "hazardous chemicals." Each year over 1,000 new synthetic chemicals are introduced.
4. In an average city of 400,000 residents, 94 tons of toilet bowl cleaner, 54 tons of liquid household cleaners, and 14 tons of motor oil are discharged into city drains each month.

Shelter In-Place

During an accidental release of toxic chemicals or other emergencies where air quality is threatened, shelter in-place keeps you inside a building and out of danger.

It is the responsibility of local authorities to issue orders for shelter in-place during chemical emergencies. You may receive these orders directly from police or fire officials, telephone community alert network, or through a media source such as radio or television.

Once the order for shelter in-place has been issued, DO NOT leave your home until you receive official notification that the danger has passed. Again this information will be released to the media, or you may also receive this information directly from the police or fire departments.

Where and How... In Your Home

1. Go or remain indoors.
 -  If possible, bring outdoor pets inside.
2. Close and lock all doors and windows to the outside.
 -  Doors and windows often seal better when locked.
3. Turn off all ventilation systems.
 -  Turn off all heating or air conditioners and switch inlets to the "closed" position. Seal any gaps around window-type air conditioners with tape or plastic sheathing, wax paper, aluminum wrap or any other suitable material.
 -  Turn off all exhaust fans in kitchens, bathrooms, and any other spaces. Use tape and plastic food wrapping, wax paper or aluminum wrap to cover and

seal bathroom exhaust and grilles, range vents, dryer vents, and other openings to the outdoors as much as possible. Make sure you seal any obvious gaps around external windows and doors.

 Close all fireplace dampers and seal all openings with tape and plastic sheeting, wax paper, aluminum wrap or other suitable material.

4. Go into and seal a room.

 Close as many internal doors as possible in your home or building. Go to a predetermined small room and use a pre-planned emergency kit to immediately seal windows, vents, or doors.

 Close the drapes, curtains or shades over windows to protect yourself against any possible explosion from the outside. Stay away from external windows to prevent possible injury from flying glass. If the vapors begin to bother you, hold a wet cloth or handkerchief over your nose and mouth. For a higher degree of protection, go into the bathroom, close the door and turn on the shower in a strong spray. Seal any opening to the outside of the bathroom as best you can.

 Do not worry about running out of air to breathe, as this is very unlikely in normal homes and buildings.

5. Stay tuned into a television or radio for further updates on what you should be doing or when it is safe to return to normal status.

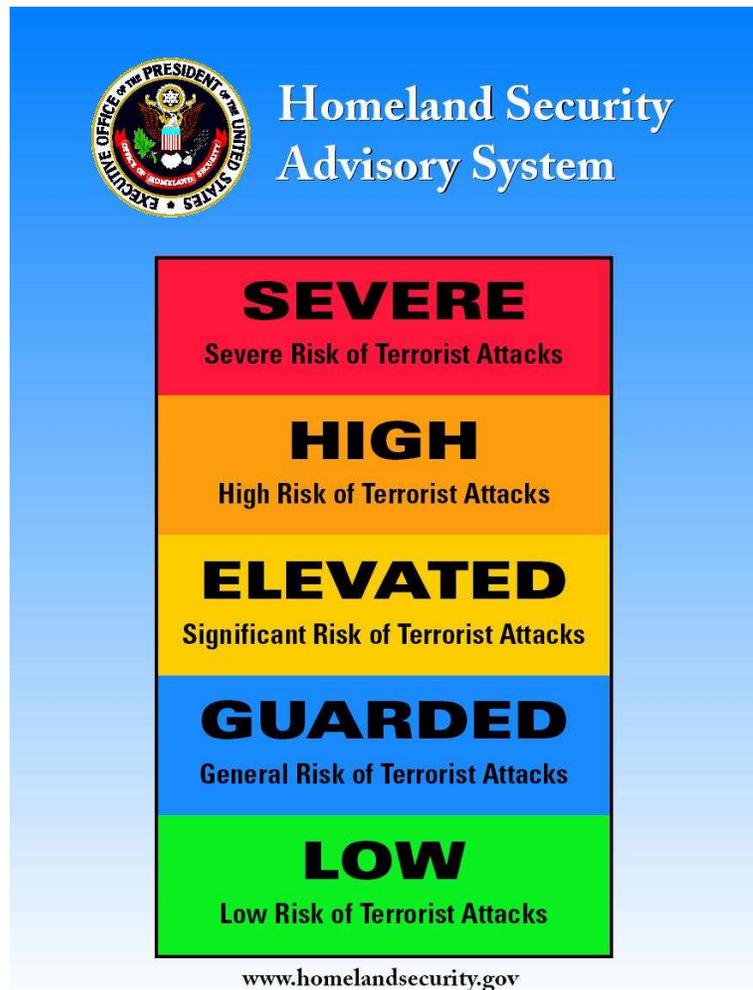
Evacuation

1. Immediately move to a location designated by public officials when so directed.
2. Gather what you and your family will need.
3. Take only essential items especially medication.
4. Do Not go to children's school. School officials will take special care of your children.
5. Leave a sign on the door saying house has been evacuated.
6. You will be directed to a safe designated area.
7. Keep car windows and vents closed.
8. Do not panic, be patient, help those who may need assistants.
9. Wait until you hear an official announcement that it is safe to return, before returning home.

Homeland Security

The Nation requires a Homeland Advisory System to provide a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to Federal, State and local authorities and to the American people. Such a system provides warnings in the form of a set of graduated "Threat Conditions" that would increase as the risk of the threat increases. At each Threat Condition, Federal departments and agencies will implement a corresponding set of "Protective Measures" to further reduce vulnerability or increase response capability during a period of heightened alert. This system is intended to create a common vocabulary, context, and structure for an ongoing national discussion about the nature of the threats and confront the homeland and appropriate measures that should

be taken in response. It seeks to inform and facilitate decisions appropriate to different levels of government and to private citizens at home and at work.



Homeland Security Advisory System Recommendations

Low

- Develop a personal disaster plan and disaster supplies kit using this workbook.

Guarded

- Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to proper authorities.
- Review stored disaster supplies and replace items that are outdated.

- Develop emergency communication plan that all family members understand.
- Establish an alternate meeting place away from home with family/friends.

Elevated

- Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to proper authorities.
- Ensure disaster supplies kit is stocked and ready.
- Check telephone numbers and e-mail addresses in your family emergency communication plan and update as necessary.
- If not known to you, contact school to determine their emergency notification and evacuation plans for children.
- Develop alternate routes to/from work/school and practice them.

High

- Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to proper authorities.
- Review disaster plan with all family members.
- Exercise caution when traveling.
- Have shelter in place, materials on hand and review procedure in this workbook.
- Discuss children's fears concerning possible terrorist attacks.

Severe

- Listen to radio/TV for current information/instructions.
- Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to proper authorities immediately.
- Contact business/school to determine status of work/school day.
- Adhere to any travel restrictions announced by local government authorities.
- Be prepared to shelter in place or evacuate if instructed to do so by local government authorities.

Reference

Charts

Chart 1.1
Wind Chill Chart (Temperature & Wind Speed)

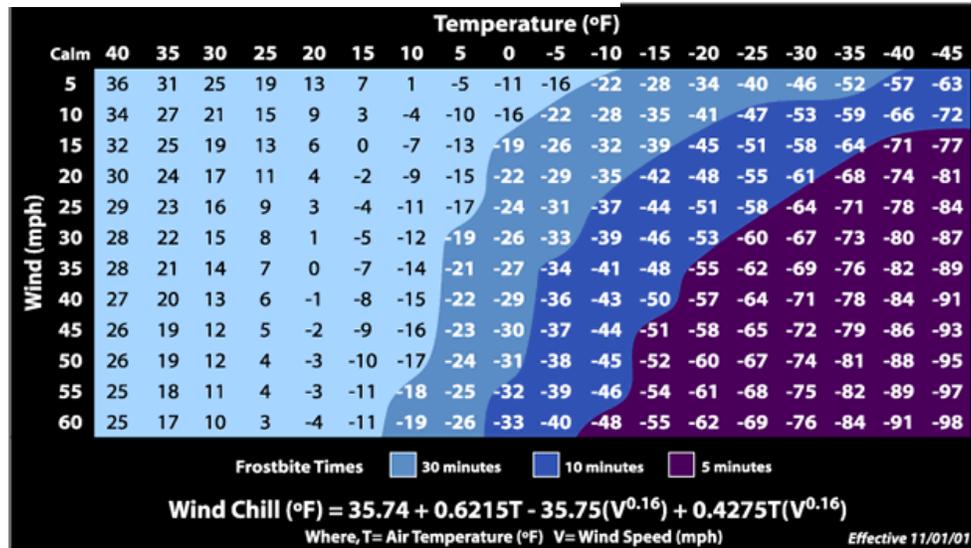


Chart 1.2
Heat Index Chart (Temperature & Relative Humidity)

RH (%)	Temperature (° F)															
	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105
90	119	123	128	132	137	141	146	152	157	163	168	174	180	186	193	199
85	115	119	123	127	132	136	141	145	150	155	161	166	172	178	184	190
80	112	115	119	123	127	131	135	140	144	149	154	159	164	169	175	180
75	109	112	115	119	122	126	130	134	138	143	147	152	156	161	166	171
70	106	109	112	115	118	122	125	129	133	137	141	145	149	154	158	163
65	103	106	108	111	114	117	121	124	127	131	135	139	143	147	151	155
60	100	103	105	108	111	114	116	120	123	126	129	133	136	140	144	148
55	98	100	103	105	107	110	113	115	118	121	124	127	131	134	137	141
50	96	98	100	102	104	107	109	112	114	117	119	122	125	128	131	135
45	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110	113	115	118	120	123	126	129
40	92	94	96	97	99	101	103	105	107	109	111	113	116	118	121	123
35	91	92	94	95	97	98	100	102	104	106	107	109	112	114	116	118
30	89	90	92	93	95	96	98	99	101	102	104	106	108	110	112	114

Note: Exposure to full sunshine can increase HI values by up to 15° F

Figures

Figure 2.1

ELECTRIC SHUT-OFFS

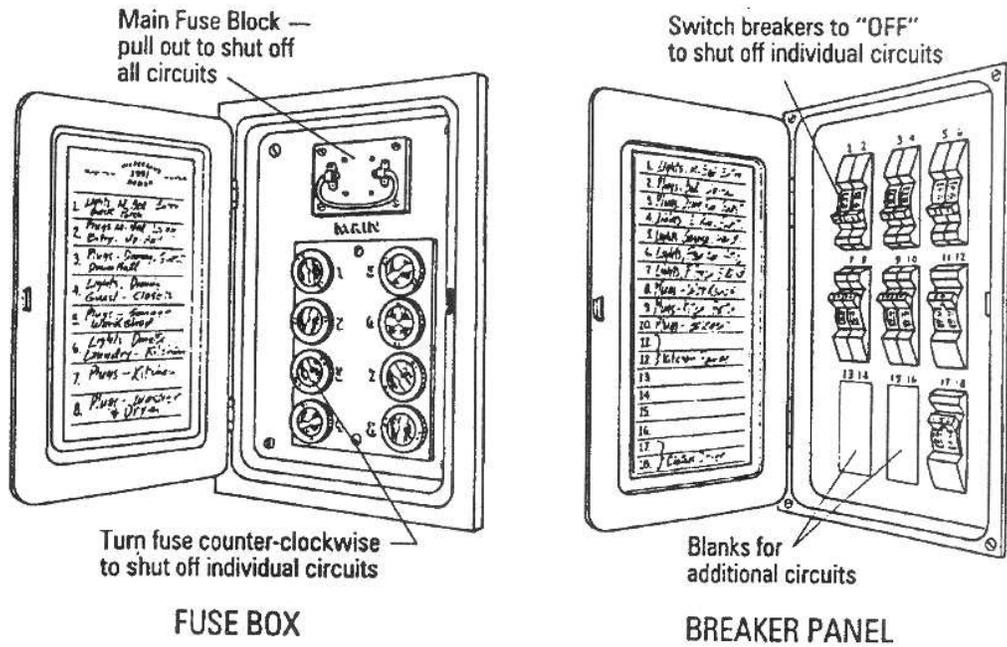
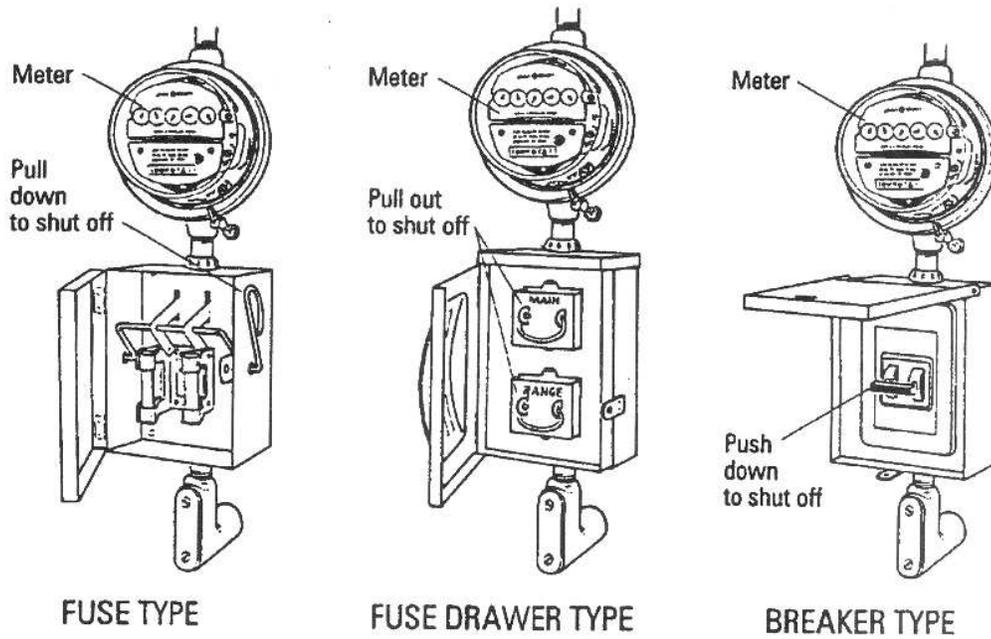
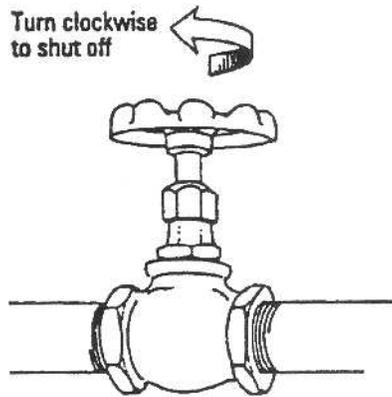
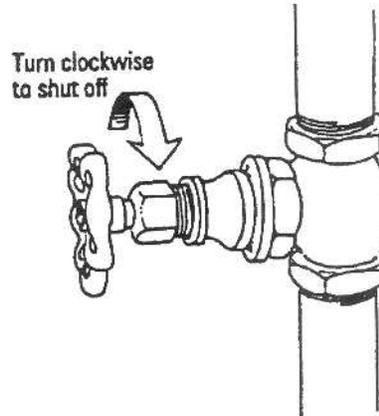


Figure 2.2

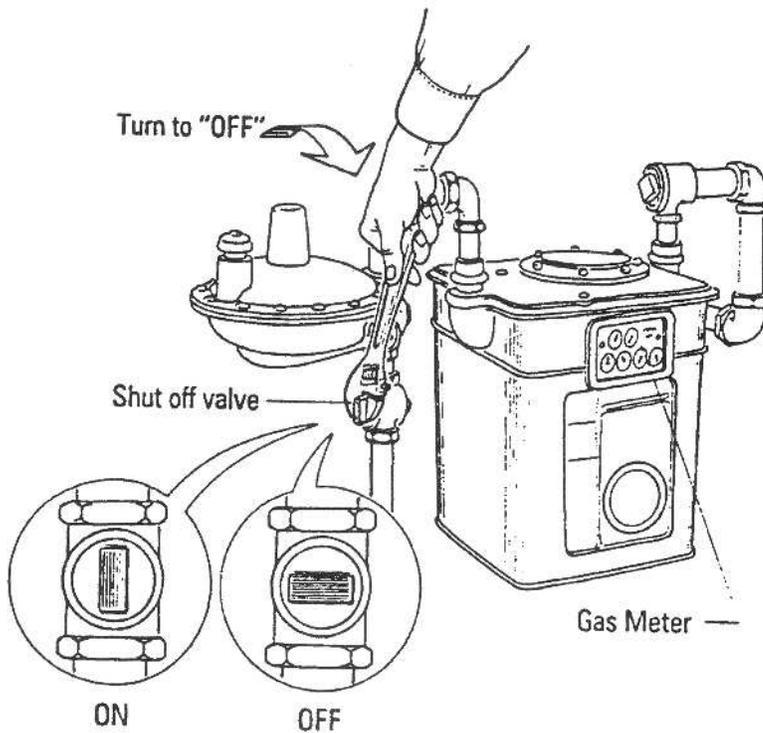
WATER SHUT-OFF



WATER SHUT-OFF



GAS SHUT-OFF



Floor Plan

Floor One



Floor Two



 Normal Exit Route	 Disaster Supplies Kit	 Stairways
 Emergency Exit Routes	 Doors	 Utility Shut Off
 Fire Extinguisher	 Collapsible Ladder	 Windows
 Smoke Detectors	 Reunion Location (Outside)	 First Aid Kit

Your Family Disaster Supplies & Preparedness Calendar



The Family Disaster Supplies & Preparedness Calendar is intended to help you take appropriate preparedness actions and create a 3–7 day disaster supply kit before the next emergency happens. Using the calendar, your family can assemble an emergency kit in small steps over a six month period. Check off each of the items you collect or the actions you take during the week. Supplies may be stored all together in a large plastic garbage can with wheels, putting the heavy items at the bottom. When medical supplies, flashlights and emergency items are placed near the top, they can be located quickly for inspecting and restocking. Remember to rotate your perishable supplies and change water every six months. **Review this calendar every six months.** For example, each time you change your clock, review this list.

Note: You should store 1–2 gallons of water per person for each day. This water is for consumption and sanitation. For this reason the calendar repeats the need to purchase water several times.

MONTH ONE			
Week One	Week Two	Week Three	Week Four
Grocery Store <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 jar peanut butter* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 large can juice* <input type="checkbox"/> hand-operated can opener <input type="checkbox"/> instant coffee, tea, powdered soft drinks <input type="checkbox"/> permanent marking pen to mark date on cans & bottled water <input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water for each pet 	Hardware Store <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> crescent wrench <input type="checkbox"/> heavy rope <input type="checkbox"/> duct tape <input type="checkbox"/> 2 flashlights with batteries <input type="checkbox"/> bungee cords <input type="checkbox"/> water proof matches 	Grocery Store <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can meat* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can fruit* <input type="checkbox"/> sanitary napkins <input type="checkbox"/> video tape <input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water for each pet 	Hardware Store <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> plumber's tape <input type="checkbox"/> crow bar <input type="checkbox"/> smoke detector with battery <input type="checkbox"/> tarp
Also: pet food, diapers, and/or baby food if needed.		Also: pet food, diapers, and/or baby food if needed.	Also: extra medications or prescription marked "emergency use," if needed
To Do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Establish an out-of-state contact to call in case of disaster. <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare a list of important phone numbers: out-of-state contact, physicians, veterinarian, family, creditors, insurance, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Make a family plan. Follow the information from the Workbook or Red Cross brochures. 	To Do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Check your house for hazards. Follow the Reduce Hazards Booklet or Red Cross brochures. <input type="checkbox"/> Identify which hazards you will reduce first. <input type="checkbox"/> Locate your gas meter and water shutoffs and attach the proper tool near each. <input type="checkbox"/> Obtain a collar-tag or microchip for your pet for emergency identification 	To Do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Use a video camera to tape the contents of your home for insurance purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> Store video tape with friend/family member who lives out of town. <input type="checkbox"/> Investigate home/ rental insurance. <input type="checkbox"/> Date each can of food using a marking pen. 	To Do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Install or test your smoke/ fire/carbon monoxide detector. Replace batteries. <input type="checkbox"/> Tie water heater to wall studs. Follow the diagrams in the Reduce Hazards booklet.

* Purchase one item per person

MONTH TWO

Week Five	Week Six	Week Seven	Week Eight
<p>Grocery Store</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can meat* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can fruit* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can vegetables* <input type="checkbox"/> 2 rolls toilet paper* <input type="checkbox"/> extra toothbrush* <input type="checkbox"/> personal hygiene items: toothbrush, comb, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> travel size tooth paste <p>Also: special food for special diets.</p> <hr/> <p>To Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a fire drill at home. <input type="checkbox"/> For pets, ask veterinarian about appropriate size container for evacuating. (Vets may have info on used containers.) 	<p>First Aid Supplies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> aspirin and/or acetaminophen <input type="checkbox"/> compresses <input type="checkbox"/> rolls of gauze or bandages <input type="checkbox"/> first aid tape <input type="checkbox"/> adhesive bandages in assorted sizes <input type="checkbox"/> cold packs <p>Also: extra hearing aid batteries, if needed.</p> <hr/> <p>To Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Check your child's day care or school to find out about disaster plans. <input type="checkbox"/> Take first aid/CPR class. <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase a camp stove and fuel to boil water as needed 	<p>Grocery Store</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can ready-to-eat soup (not concentrate)* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can fruit* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can vegetables* <p>Also: extra plastic baby bottles, formula and diapers, if needed.</p> <hr/> <p>To Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Research how to become a licensed ham radio operator. 	<p>First Aid Supplies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> scissors <input type="checkbox"/> tweezers <input type="checkbox"/> antiseptic <input type="checkbox"/> thermometer <input type="checkbox"/> disposable hand wipes <input type="checkbox"/> sewing kit <input type="checkbox"/> waterproof plastic container for first aid supplies <hr/> <p>To Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Send some of your favorite family and pet photos (or copies) to family members out of state for safe keeping.

MONTH THREE

Week Nine	Week Ten	Week Eleven	Week Twelve
<p>Grocery Store</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can ready-to-eat soup (not concentrate)* <input type="checkbox"/> liquid dish soap <input type="checkbox"/> 1 quart plain liquid bleach <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box heavy-duty garbage bags <p>Also: saline solution and a contact lens case if needed.</p> <hr/> <p>To Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Place a pair of hard sole shoes and a flashlight under your bed so that they are handy during an earthquake. 	<p>Hardware Store</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> waterproof portable plastic container (with lid) for important papers <input type="checkbox"/> portable AM/FM radio (with batteries) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 flashlight (with batteries) <p>Also: space blanket, blankets or sleeping bag for each family member and pet.</p> <hr/> <p>To Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make photocopies of important papers and store safely. <input type="checkbox"/> Update animal vaccination records. Put with important papers. 	<p>Grocery Store</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 large can juice* <input type="checkbox"/> large plastic food bags <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box quick energy snacks <input type="checkbox"/> 3 rolls paper towels <input type="checkbox"/> ¼ teaspoon (or 1ml) measuring device (for use with bleach to treat water) <p>Also: sunscreen, if needed.</p> <hr/> <p>To Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Store a roll of quarters for emergency phone calls, extra cash and credit cards. <input type="checkbox"/> Go on a hunt with your family to find a pay phone near your home. 	<p>First Aid Supplies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> anti-diarrhea medicine <input type="checkbox"/> rubbing alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> 2 pair latex gloves <input type="checkbox"/> ipecac syrup and activated charcoal (for accidental poisoning) <input type="checkbox"/> children's vitamins <p>Also: items for denture care, if needed.</p> <hr/> <p>To Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Take your family on a field trip to main electrical panel, gas meter and water shutoff. Demonstrate how to turn them off. If the valves don't move, contact the utility for repair.

* Purchase one item per person

MONTH FOUR

Week Thirteen	Week Fourteen	Week Fifteen	Week Sixteen
Hardware Store <input type="checkbox"/> whistle <input type="checkbox"/> ABC Fire extinguisher <input type="checkbox"/> pliers <input type="checkbox"/> vise grips <input type="checkbox"/> local area map <input type="checkbox"/> hand warmers <input type="checkbox"/> extra batteries for radio and flashlight	Grocery Store <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can fruit* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can meat* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can vegetables* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 package paper plates* <input type="checkbox"/> eating utensils <input type="checkbox"/> package paper cups <input type="checkbox"/> adult vitamins	Hardware Store <input type="checkbox"/> extra flashlight batteries <input type="checkbox"/> masking tape <input type="checkbox"/> hammer <input type="checkbox"/> "L" brackets or flexible straps to secure tall furniture to wall studs	Grocery Store <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can meat* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can vegetables* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box large heavy-duty garbage bags <input type="checkbox"/> kleenex <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box quick energy snacks (granola bars or raisins)
To Do <input type="checkbox"/> Find out if you have a neighborhood safety organization and join it!	To Do <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a neighborhood pet care plan.	To Do <input type="checkbox"/> Brace shelves and cabinets. <input type="checkbox"/> Secure fish tanks, bird houses and reptile cages.	To Do <input type="checkbox"/> Make a plan to check on a neighbor who might need help in an emergency.

MONTH FIVE

Week Seventeen	Week Eighteen	Week Nineteen	Week Twenty
Grocery Store <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box graham crackers <input type="checkbox"/> assorted plastic containers with lids <input type="checkbox"/> assorted safety pins <input type="checkbox"/> dry cereal Also: extra clothing like jacket, towels, hat, umbrella, gloves, shoes, etc.	Hardware Store <input type="checkbox"/> "child-proof" latches or other fasteners for your cupboards <input type="checkbox"/> double sided tape or velcro-type fasteners to secure moveable objects <input type="checkbox"/> extra rope or leash for pet	Grocery Store <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box heavy duty garbage bags <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box quick energy snacks <input type="checkbox"/> pen and paper	Grocery Store <input type="checkbox"/> camping or utility knife <input type="checkbox"/> extra radio batteries Also: for each pet, extra medications or prescription marked "emergency use," if needed.
To Do <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange for a friend or neighbor to help your children or watch your pets if you are at work.	To Do <input type="checkbox"/> Pack a "go-pack" in case you need to evacuate.	To Do <input type="checkbox"/> Have an earthquake drill at home. <input type="checkbox"/> If you are a licensed ham radio operator, contact a local government agency to volunteer for emergency service.	To Do <input type="checkbox"/> Find out about your workplace disaster plans.

MONTH SIX

Week Twenty One	Week Twenty Two	Week Twenty Three	Week Twenty Four
Hardware Store <input type="checkbox"/> heavy work gloves <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box disposable dust masks <input type="checkbox"/> screw driver <input type="checkbox"/> plastic safety goggles	Grocery Store <input type="checkbox"/> extra hand-operated can opener <input type="checkbox"/> 3 rolls paper towels	Hardware Store <input type="checkbox"/> battery powered camping lantern with extra battery or extra flashlights <input type="checkbox"/> for pets, a large ground screw to tie animals to when fences fall	Grocery Store <input type="checkbox"/> large plastic food bags <input type="checkbox"/> plastic wrap <input type="checkbox"/> aluminum foil * Purchase one item per person

Your family will cope best by preparing for disaster before it strikes. One way to prepare is by assembling a Disaster Supplies Kit. Once disaster hits, you won't have time to shop or search for supplies. But if you've gathered supplies in advance, your family can endure an evacuation or home confinement. **Prepare Your Kit**

- Review the checklist below.
- Gather the supplies that are listed. You may need them if your family is confined at home.
- Place the supplies you'd most likely need for an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container. These supplies are listed with an asterisk (*).
- There are six basics you should stock for your home: water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies, and special items. Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to carry container--suggested items are marked with an asterisk (*).

Possible Containers Include-

- A large, covered trash container,
- A camping backpack,
- A duffle bag.

Water

- Store water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as milk cartons or glass bottles. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers, and ill people will need more.
- Store one gallon of water per person per day.
- Keep at least a three-day supply of water per person (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for each person in your household for food preparation/sanitation). *

Food

- Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking, and little or no water. If you must heat food, pack a can of sterno. Select food items that are compact and lightweight.
*Include a selection of the following foods in your Disaster Supplies Kit:
- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables

First Aid Kit Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car. A first aid kit* should include:

- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Latex gloves (2 pairs)
- Sunscreen
- 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)

- 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- Triangular bandages (3)
- Non-prescription drugs
- 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Tongue blades (2)
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant

Non-Prescription Drugs

- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid (for stomach upset)
- Syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)
- Laxative
- Activated charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center)

Tools and Supplies

- Mess kits, or paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils*
- Emergency preparedness manual*
- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries*
- Flashlight and extra batteries*
- Cash or traveler's checks, change*
- Non-electric can opener, utility knife*
- Fire extinguisher: small canister ABC type
- Tube tent
- Pliers
- Tape
- Compass
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic storage containers
- Signal flare
- Paper, pencil
- Needles, thread
- Medicine dropper
- Shut-off wrench, to turn off household gas and water
- Whistle



- Plastic sheeting
- Map of the area (for locating shelters)

Sanitation

- Toilet paper, towelettes*
- Soap, liquid detergent*
- Feminine supplies*
- Personal hygiene items*
- Plastic garbage bags, ties (for personal sanitation uses)
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Disinfectant
- Household chlorine bleach

Clothing and Bedding

- *Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person.
- Sturdy shoes or work boots*
- Rain gear*
- Blankets or sleeping bags*
- Hat and gloves
- Thermal underwear
- Sunglasses

Special Items

- Remember family members with special requirements, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons

For Baby*

- Formula
- Diapers
- Bottles
- Powdered milk
- Medications

For Adults*

- Heart and high blood pressure medication
- Insulin
- Prescription drugs
- Denture needs
- Contact lenses and supplies
- Extra eye glasses

Entertainment

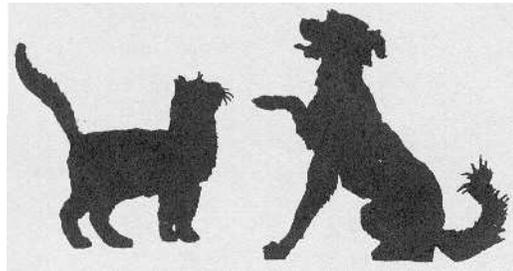
- Games and books

Important Family Documents

- Keep these records in a waterproof, portable container:
 - Will, insurance policies, contracts deeds, stocks and bonds
 - Passports, social security cards, immunization records
 - Bank account numbers
 - Credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the Disaster Supplies Kit in the trunk of your car.
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags. Change your stored water supply every six months so it stays fresh. Replace your stored food every six months. Re-think your kit and family needs at least once a year. Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.
- Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.

Steps to Prepare You and Your Pet for a Disaster

Whether it's a large-scale natural catastrophe or an unforeseen emergency that causes you to leave your home temporarily, everyone's family can benefit from having a household evacuation plan in place before disaster strikes. Every disaster plan must include your pets!



- If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** Pets most likely cannot survive on their own; and if by some remote chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return.
- For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Find out which motels and hotels in your area allow pets -- well in advance of needing them. Include your local animal shelter's number in your list of emergency numbers -- they might be able to provide information concerning pets during a disaster.
- Make sure identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site. If your pet gets lost, his tag is his ticket home. Make sure you have a current photo of your pet for identification purposes.
- Make sure you have a secure pet carrier, leash or harness for your pet so that if he panics, he can't escape.
- Take pet food, bottled water, medications, veterinary records, cat litter/pan, can opener, food dishes, first aid kit and other supplies with you in case they're not

available later. While the sun is still shining, consider packing a "pet survival" kit that could be easily deployed if disaster hits.

- If you are unable to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet. Most boarding kennels, veterinarians and animal shelters will need your pet's medical records to make sure all vaccinations are current. Include copies in your "pet survival" kit along with a photo of your pet.
- If it is impossible to take your pet with you to temporary shelter, contact friends, family, veterinarians, or boarding kennels to arrange for care. Make sure medical and feeding information, food, medicine and other supplies accompany your pet to his foster home. **NOTE:** Some animal shelters will provide temporary foster care for owned pets in times of disaster, but this should be considered only as a last resort.
- If you have no alternative but to leave your pet at home, there are some precautions you must take, but remember that leaving your pet at home alone can place your animal in great danger! Confine your pet to a safe area inside -- NEVER leave your pet chained outside! Place a notice outside in a visible area, advising what pets are in the house and where they are located. Provide a phone number where you or a contact can be reached as well as the name and number of your vet.

Home Hazard Hunt

- In a disaster, ordinary items in the home can cause injury and damage. Anything that can move, fall, break, or cause a fire is a potential hazard.
- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections.
- Fasten shelves securely.
- Place large, heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Hang pictures and mirrors away from beds.
- Brace overhead light fixtures.
- Secure water heater. Strap to wall studs.
- Repair cracks in ceilings or foundations.
- Store weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products away from heat sources.
- Place oily polishing rags or waste in covered metal cans.
- Clean and repair chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors, and gas vents.

Resources

City of West Des Moines

Administrative Services
4000 Mills Civic Parkway
P. O. Box 65320
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265
Telephone: (515) 222-3600 Fax: (515) 222-3640
Office Hours 8:00 AM/5:00 PM M-F
E-mail: cityinfo@wdm-ia.com

City Manager
515-222-3610
E-mail: cityinfo@wdm-ia.com

Community Development
515-222-3630
E-mail: commdevelop@wdm-ia.com

Human Resources
515-222-3600
(Job-Line) 515-222-3522
E-mail: humanresources@wdm-ia.com

Human Services
318 5th Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515-222-3660
E-mail: humanservices@wdm-ia.com

Information Services
515-222-3630
E-mail: is@wdm-ia.com

Library
515-222-3400
E-mail: library@wdm-ia.com

Parks & Recreation
515-222-3444
E-mail: parkrec@wdm-ia.com

Public Works
560 S. 16th Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515-222-3480
E-mail: publicworks@wvdm-ia.com

Water works (General Office and Customer Service)
515-222-3460
E-mail: waterworks@wvdm-ia.com

A.C. Ward Municipal Water Treatment Plant
1505 Railroad Avenue
515-222-3465

West Des Moines Emergency Services

***In Case of Emergency, Dial 911**

West Des Moines Police Department
250 Civic Parkway
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515-222-3300

West Des Moines Fire Department (Administration)
3421 Ashworth Rd.
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515-222-3420

West Des Moines EMS Department (Administration)
3421 Ashworth Rd.
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515-222-3652

Station #1
3421 Ashworth
515-222-3421

Westside Station (Clive & West Des
Moines)
1801 68th St.
515-222-3423

Station #2
1401 Railroad
515-222-3422

Station #4
5025 Grand Ave
515-222-3684

Area Hospitals

Blank Children's Hospital
1200 Pleasant St.
Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 241-5437

Broadlawns Medical Center
1801 Hickman Road
Des Moines, IA 50314
(515) 282-2200

Iowa Lutheran Hospital
700 East University
Des Moines, IA 50316
(515) 263-5612

Iowa Methodist Medical Center
1200 Pleasant St.
Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 241-6212

Others

Polk County Emergency Management
111 Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-286-2107

American Red Cross (Administration)
2116 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312
515-243-7681

Mid America Energy
1-800-595-5325

Poison Information Center
1-800-352-2222