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HOW TO BE PREPARED

- For evacuation purposes, know all escape routes within your home.
- Designate a family meeting place and make sure everyone is accounted for.
- Make a list of your emergency contacts, including out of state relatives/friends to advise them of your current status and location.
- Know how to turn off water, gas and electricity.
- Listen to radio news broadcasts on a battery-operated radio
- Prepare an emergency kit that you can carry with you
- Don't forget your pets and their supplies. (More information about animals care ahead).

HOME READINESS KIT

A Home Readiness Kit is a vital precaution for every family in case of an emergency.

Assemble the following items to last **THREE DAYS FOR EACH MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY**

WATER: One gallon per person per day. Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers.

FOOD: Non perishable, packaged or canned food that will not spoil and a manual can opener. Powdered or canned milk. Hard candy, sugar, salt and pepper. Canned heat (Sterno®). Don't forget pet food if you have pets.

CLOTHING: A change of clothing, rain gear, sturdy shoes, hats, gloves, sunglasses, rubber boots, extra blankets or sleeping bags.

SUPPLIES: A battery-powered radio, matches, and lighter, candles, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries. Plastic plates, utensils, plastic storage containers, paper, pencils and duct tape.

FIRST AID KIT: Bandages, gauze, tape, alcohol and/or peroxide, aspirin or non-aspirin pain relief, antacid, laxative, anti-diarrhea medication, antiseptic and eye wash.

MONEY: Credit cards and cash

DOCUMENTS: Essential family documents, vital records, physician contact information, and contact names and telephone numbers, placed in a fireproof, waterproof container.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Baby items, formula, medication, toys and books. Items for the elderly and those with special needs.

BE PREPARED TO EVACUATE

You may be asked to prepare to evacuate if a situation has the potential of escalating to the point where evacuation is required. During this time, authorities will take action to alleviate the emergency and will prepare for an orderly evacuation, should it become necessary.

Listen to news broadcasts on radio and/or television for further evacuation information. If you are at home, you should gather any clothing and medication you will need for a few days away from home.

SPECIAL HELP

If you are bedridden, wheelchair bound, handicapped, or medically unable to evacuate and you are without the assistance or need help evacuation, please call 911 and request assistance for evacuation during an emergency. (Please be ready to provide information about medical condition or mobility problem).

Local government officials, not the Red Cross, issue evacuation orders when disaster threatens. Listen to local radio and television reports. If local officials ask you to leave, **do so immediately!**

If you have only moments before leaving, grab these things and go!

- Medical supplies: prescription medications and dentures.
- Disaster supplies: flashlight, batteries, radio, first aid kit, bottled water
- Clothing and bedding: a change of clothes and a sleeping bag or bedroll and pillow for each household member
- Car keys and keys to the place you may be going (friend's or relative's home)

GATHER ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES AND PAPERS

You will need the following supplies when you leave your home; put them all together in a duffle bag or other large container in advance:

- Flashlight with plenty of extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Prescription medications in their original bottle, plus copies of the prescriptions
- Eyeglasses (with a copy of the prescription)
- Water (at least one gallon per person is recommended; more is better)
- Foods that do not require refrigeration or cooking
- Items that infants and elderly household members may require
- Medical equipment and devices such as dentures, crutches, prostheses, etc.
- Change of clothes for each household member
- Sleeping bag or bedroll and pillow for each household member
- Checkbook, cash, and credit cards
- Map of the area
- **Important papers to take with you:**
 - Driver's license or personal identification
 - Social Security card
 - Proof of residence (deed or lease)
 - Insurance policies
 - Birth and marriage certificates
 - Stocks, bonds, and other negotiable certificates
 - Wills, deeds, and copies of recent tax returns

CARING FOR ANIMALS

Animals also are affected by disasters. Use the guidelines below to prepare a plan for caring for pets and large animals.

Guidelines for Pets

Plan for pet disaster needs by:

- Identifying shelter.
 - Gathering pet supplies.
 - Ensuring your pet has proper ID and up-to-date veterinarian records.
 - Providing a pet carrier and leash.
 - Take the following steps to prepare to shelter your pet:
 - Call your local animal shelter, or animal control office to get advice and information.
 - Keep veterinary records to prove vaccinations are current.
 - Find out which local hotels and motels allow pets and where pet boarding facilities are located. Be sure to research some outside your local area in case local facilities close.
- Know that, with the exception of service animals, pets are not typically permitted in emergency shelters as they may affect the health and safety of other occupants.

Guidelines for Large Animals

If you have large animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, goats, or pigs on your property, be sure to prepare before a disaster.

Use the following guidelines:

- Ensure all animals have some form of identification.
- Evacuate animals whenever possible. Map out primary and secondary routes in advance.
- Make available vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal. Also make available experienced handlers and drivers. (Note: It is best to allow animals a chance to become accustomed to vehicular travel so they are less frightened and easier to move.)

Ensure pets have food, water, veterinary care, and handling equipment when they reach their destination.

- If evacuation is not possible, animal owners must decide whether to move large animals, shelter, or turn them loose