

Five Aspects of Emergency Preparedness

This is what emergency preparedness is all about: preparing for, responding to, recovering from, mitigating, and preventing emergency situations. Emergencies can be met and handled. Whether an emergency involves your family or your entire community, on highways or waterways, in your home or outdoors, you can bring your Scouting skills and knowledge to the situation and help. Re-create this chart to help you complete requirement 2.

Emergency Situation	Protect	Respond	Recover	Prevent	Mitigate
Fire in the home					
Tornado					
Car accident					

Emergency Packs and Kits

For more information about emergency kits, see the Ready.gov or American Red Cross entries in the resources section of this pamphlet.

The following emergency kits will provide you with items that will make your life easier in the event of an emergency. Also, by assembling and maintaining such kits, you are thinking ahead about how to deal with possible emergencies before they develop.

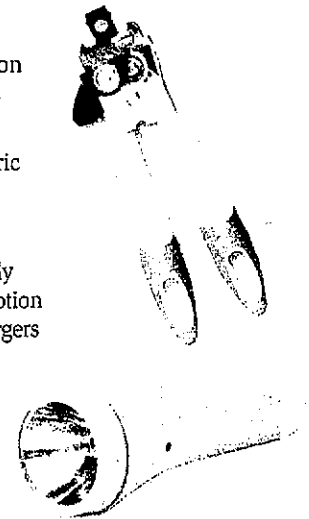
According to Ready.gov, a campaign from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think first about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air, and warmth." The website, www.ready.gov, has many helpful resources related to specific types of emergencies.

Family Emergency Kit

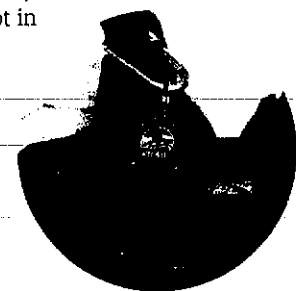
If you have received a warning that requires you and your family to evacuate your home, you may have little time to throw together a few items or dash to a well-stocked emergency shelter. It would be better to have a box or suitcase of emergency supplies and water on hand to meet your family's needs for a few days or, better, for a week. These items come in handy in an emergency even if you do not have to evacuate. Some families keep their supplies in a basement shelter area or in a storm cellar, if they have one.

Include the following items:

- Minimum of three-day supply of water (1 gallon per person per day) stored in sealed, unbreakable containers such as plastic jugs
- Nonperishable foods (including pet food) and a nonelectric can opener (be sure to check expiration dates)
- Eating utensils
- Any special foods or other important items for babies, elderly people, or family members such as extra eyeglasses, prescription medications (if practical), portable devices, and battery chargers
- Family first-aid kit
- Battery- or crank-powered radio
- Flashlight or lantern or chemical light sticks
- Extra batteries (stored separately and rotated regularly with fresh ones)
- Matches in waterproof container and fire starting kit
- Blankets or a sleeping bag for each family member
- Extra clothing appropriate for the season
- Dust masks for air filtering
- Soap, wipes, or antibacterial gel for hand sanitation
- Toilet paper
- Emergency toilet, if needed (Use a garbage container, bucket, or similar watertight container lined with plastic bags. Tie the bags near the top so as to allow for gas build-up. Throw sawdust, cat litter, sand, or dirt into the bag after each use to help contain odors and dry the waste.)
- Copies of important family documents (such as identification, copies of insurance policies, prescriptions list, and emergency contact list with phone numbers and email addresses) kept in a waterproof container
- Whistle to signal for help
- Local maps (for navigating to shelters; be sure to obtain a local map when you are visiting another area)
- Cash and coins
- Books, games, and other personal comfort items
- Sunscreen and insect repellent



It's a good idea to keep prescription medications handy so that they can be found and taken in a moment's notice.





Major Disaster Preparedness Items

The following items are helpful during an emergency or if you are safe staying in your home and an evacuation has not been ordered.

- List of emergency telephone numbers and out-of-town contact person in case local lines are busy
- Fire extinguisher (preferably a multipurpose one)
- Tool kit (ax, shovel, broom, screwdriver, pliers, hammer, coil of 1/2-inch rope, coil of baling wire, duct tape, razor blades, adjustable wrench for turning off gas or water)
- Simple chart showing where shutoff valves are located, including the main electrical switch
- Portable fire escape ladder for homes or buildings of more than one level
- Portable stove with appropriate fuel (used outdoors away from garage or carport to avoid the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning)
- Gloves and rags
- Covered containers (that can be tightly sealed) for storing refuse
- Garden hose kept near an outside faucet at all times

Be sure to store any emergency items in a place free from moisture, frost, or too much heat.

In your area, 911 may be the only number needed for any emergency.

During any type of emergency, it is always a good idea to carry a mobile phone if you have one. Don't forget the phone charger, too.

Personal Emergency Service Pack

Be prepared for a mobilization call with a personal emergency service pack. You will be ready for many emergencies if you use the following checklist as you equip your pack.

- Poncho or raincoat (with hood or rain hat)
- Change of underwear and socks
- Small bag with toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, needle, thread, shoelaces, and toilet paper
- Sleeping bag (or bedroll of two wool blankets) and waterproof ground cloth
- Maps of areas where your troop is likely to serve
- 50 feet of No. 5 sash cord or similar-size nylon cord
- Pocket knife and ax and/or saw
- Water treatment equipment
- Cook kit and canteen
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio
- Extra batteries (stored separately)
- Hard hat
- Other equipment as determined by weather conditions (winter jacket, rubber boots, gloves, etc.)
- Personal first-aid kit (You can order a personal first-aid kit through your local council service center, or you can make your own. Include gauze bandages and pads, adhesive bandages, soap, antibiotic ointment for burns, and roller bandages.)
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Emergency ration (such as energy bar, energy gel, etc.; well-wrapped)
- Pencil and small notebook
- Bandanna
- Compass and map of the area (or a GPS; be sure you have a set of fresh batteries)
- Watch (unless you usually wear one)
- Facial tissues
- Work gloves
- Dust masks for air filtering
- Boots, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and goggles or safety glasses

You should know how to use a map and compass or your GPS *before* an emergency occurs.

