

MAFES Dawg Tracks

July 18, 2016



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Safety Tips:
Emergency Preparedness

We all know by now that disaster can strike any of our towns or communities. I believe that it is prudent to suggest to all that, if we aren't already prepared for one of these disasters, we could get caught without essentials that we would need in a temporary situation.

I'm sure that all of you are of the rush that happens when the weather forecast comes out with inclement weather such as snow or even heavy thunderstorms. We all descend upon our favorite grocery store and buy all the essentials that we think that we need to weather the storm.

We want to discuss some ideas and things to do or consider that would make our lives a little easier in case we do experience a natural disaster:

Prepare a Written Disaster Plan-

It is extremely important for the family to have a written plan so that all family members are aware and will know what actions to take in case of a man-made or natural disaster.

- ✓ The first step is to meet with all family members to discuss and plan the steps for the plan.
- ✓ Itemize responsibilities for each family member (make notes to transfer later to the formal plan).
- ✓ Choose **TWO** places outside of the home to meet. If family members work outside the home, make sure all have cell phone numbers to contact the other family members. Also, you need to designate a location outside your neighborhood, in case they can't get back home, and also designate a person, outside the family, as an alternate contact person.
- The second location to meet would need to be in your neighborhood and in a safe area away from your home, but possibly on your property.
- ✓ Develop a written diagram of the home for an orderly evacuation with at least **TWO** emergency exits.
- ✓ Write all the parts of the plan as it is completed and give each family member a copy and keep other copies in pertinent locations outside the home for quick reference.
- ✓ You should have at least **TWO** meetings each year with the family members for review and upgrade the plan, if needed.
- ✓ If you have pets, you need to make plan for their safety and well-being.
- ✓ After the disaster as passed, make sure that all family members are accounted for. If one or more are absent from the meeting place, you need to begin the search for them.
- ✓ When all members are accounted for, then you begin to decide where you will temporarily stay until the problem is mitigated.

Preparing an Emergency Preparedness Supply Inventory-

Food and supplies-

- Water – 1 Gallon per day per person (3-days)
- Food – Non-perishables – like canned soups, canned meats, powdered milk, etc.
- Basic cooking utensils for preparing and serving meals
- Manual can opener

Health Supplies-

- 3-day supply of all medicines
- Medical supplies – walking cane, batteries for hearing aids, or other personal medical supplies

Personal Health Supplies-

- Soap
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Sanitary wipes
- Spare contact lenses and/or glasses

Safety Supplies-

- First aid kit
- Emergency blanket
- Multi-purpose tool (like a Leatherman) or basic tools, knife, screwdriver, hammer, pliers, etc.
- Whistle

Electronics & Other media equipment-

- "NOAA" Weather Radio
- Conventional radio
- Cell phone
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries for all of these items

Documents-

- Copy of family emergency disaster plan
- Copies of insurance cards and immunization records
- Maps of the area
- Extra set of house and vehicle keys

Taking Care of Others-

Children

- If young children are involved - provide baby bottles, baby food, diapers, blanket
- If teens or pre-teens are involved - provide games, other activities

Pets

- 3-day supply of food and water for each animal
- Cleaning supplies – litter for cats
- Health and safety supplies – medicines (if required), leash for dogs, and pet medical records

Every family is unique in their respective needs. The above list is looking at general needs and requirements. Obviously, this list can vary with the family's particular needs.

Most families probably haven't thought about an emergency plan or kits, but we never know when a calamity can hit. An emergency plan and kits would give you a decided advantage if disaster should hit.

**GET SMART<>USE SAFETY
FROM THE START!**



**DON'T LEARN SAFETY BY
ACCIDENT!**

Ted Gordon-Risk Mgmt. /Loss Control Mgr.

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Excerpts: www.redcross.org / www.emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/kit