Emergency preparedness is everyone’s job. Disasters of all kinds, ranging from floods to winter storms, can happen when least expected. It is important that each household be prepared before disaster strikes with a 72-hour Family Emergency Kit, so each family can be self-sufficient until relief arrives.

Although predictions vary widely on how serious the problems might be, the Town of Parker is taking preparation for these difficulties very seriously. We have taken a number of steps to prepare for any issues that may arise, and encourage each household to do the same. Assembling the following items to create your own 72-hour Family Emergency Kit will be a great start in preparing your household for the next disaster or emergency. Such preparation will be valuable in potential emergencies that may affect our area such as blizzards, power outages, floods, tornadoes, or hazardous materials spills.

You Must Be Ready To Act on Your Own

The 72-Hour Emergency Kit should be individually tailored to meet the basic survival needs of your family for three days to a week. Most families prefer to store their emergency supplies in a location that is relatively safe, yet easily accessible if evacuation is required. Items may be stored in a 32-gallon trash can, suitcase, duffel bag, footlocker or individual pack (with a note on top listing a few items to grab if you have to evacuate).

Emergency Needs
  • Water Storage (1 gallon/person/day)
  • Sleeping Bag and Blanket (wool and thermal)
  • First Aid Kit
  • Water Purification Tablets
  • Manual Can Opener
  • Emergency Candles
  • Waterproof/Windproof Matches
  • Extra Eyeglasses/Contact Lenses
  • Non-Perishable Foods
  • Essential Medications
  • Flashlight
  • Extra Clothing
  • Battery Powered Radio
  • Utility Knife

Suggested non-perishable food items: Ready-to-eat goods in unbreakable containers, canned meats, juice, fruits and vegetables, powdered milk, infant care foods, crackers, peanut butter, freeze-dried and dehydrated goods.

Sanitation Kit
  • Plastic Bucket w/Tightly Fitted Lid
  • Plastic Bags and Ties
  • Aluminum Foil
  • Disinfectant and Soap
  • Toilet Paper and Paper Towels
  • Improvised Toilet Seat
  • Personal Hygienic Needs and Toiletries
  • Paper Cups and Plates and Plastic Utensils
  • Baby Supplies

Other Emergency Needs
  • Pen and Paper
  • Money
  • Basic Tools and Work Gloves
  • Address and Phone Number
  • Children’s Securities (blanket, pacifier, etc.)

Standard First Aid Kit
  • First Aid Manual
  • Scissors, Tweezers and Needles
  • Aspirin or Pain Relievers
  • Sanitary Napkins (Pressure Dressing)
  • Triangular Bandages (36”x36”x52”)
  • Disposable Diapers (Dressing/Splint/Padding)
  • Individual Medical Needs
  • Small Splints, Popsicle Sticks
  • Rubbing Alcohol and Soap
  • Thermometer
  • Diarrhea Medicine / Laxative
  • Matches
  • Petroleum Jelly
  • Cotton Balls, Swabs and Gauze
  • Heavy String
  • Band-Aid
  • Syrup of Ipecac
  • Elastic Bandages
  • Micropore Adhesive, Paper Tape
  • Baking Soda and Salt (12 tsp Soda + 1 tsp Salt + 1 qt Water for shock)

Car Survival Kit
  • Always Maintain at Least ½ Tank of Gas
  • Non-Perishable Food Stored in Coffee Can
  • First Aid Kit and Manual, Medications
  • Flashlight and Batteries
  • Class ABC fire Extinguisher
  • Waterproof Matches and Candles
  • Radio and Batteries
  • Bottled Water
  • Reflectors and Flares
  • Jumper Cables
  • Bag of Sand, Shovel and Tools
  • Short Rubber Hose for Siphoning
  • Sundry Kit, Paper, Pencil, Map, Tissues, Premoistened Towels, Plastic Bags
  • Blankets or Sleeping Bag

Make Copies of All Legal Papers
  • Marriage License, Wills and Bank Accounts
  • Jewelry Appraisals
  • House Mortgage
  • Drivers Licenses and Automobile Ownership
  • Insurance Policies
  • Vacation Home/Property Ownership
  • Trailers, Snowmobiles, Boat and RV Ownership

Establish an Out-of State 24-Hour Telephone Contact
  • Calls out will not overload phone lines as will calls coming into a disaster area.
  • All relatives should be informed now on procedures to call the phone contact, not after a disaster has occurred. Individual location and status should be requested.
  • Take color pictures of every room plus pictures of valuables. Send one copy of legal papers and one copy of pictures to an out-of-state contact.

Plan How Your Family Will Stay in Contact if Separated by Disaster
Pick two meeting places:
  • A location a safe distance from your home in case of fire.
  • A place outside your neighborhood in case you can’t return home.
When Assembling Emergency Supplies for the Household, Include Items for Pets

- Extra food (food should be dry and relatively unappealing to prevent overeating. Store the food in sturdy containers.)
- Kitty litter
- Large capacity self-feeder and water dispenser
- Extra medications

Meeting with Neighbors

Plan how the neighborhood could work together after a disaster. Know your neighbors’ skills (medical, technical). Consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as elderly or disabled persons. Make plans for child care in case parents can’t get home.

How to Store Water

Store your water in thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Never use a container that has held toxic substances. **Remember that your hot water tank is a source of 40 to 50 gallons of drinking water.**

Emergency Outdoor Water Sources

If you need to find water outside your home, you can use these sources:

- Rainwater
- Streams, rivers, natural springs and other moving bodies of water
- Ponds and lakes

Be sure to purify the water by:

- Boiling
- Disinfecting (household liquid bleach: 16 drops/gal. of water, stir and let stand 30 min.)
- Distillation (boil ½ pot of water and collect the vapors by tying a cup to the upside down pot lid – the cup shouldn’t dangle in the water – it will condense back to water in the cup)

Other Considerations

- Stock supplies to last several days to a week for each family member.
- Have extra cash on hand in case electronic transactions (ATM card, credit cards, etc.) cannot be processed.
- Work with you family in talking about the steps each needs to take to be ready if disaster happens.