



The **American Preppers Network** and Fedhealth have teamed up to share some fundraising ideas that could benefit APN State sites, CPN and Provincial sites, blogs and communities.

While *IT'S A DISASTER!* doesn't cover long-term planning, it IS the perfect reference manual for the newbie prepper and your loved ones since it contains tips on what families should think about and do before, during and after specific types of scenarios, as well as how to administer basic first aid. *(Please note: This PDF is only a portion of the actual 268-page book. Most of the bookmarks and links won't work but we left them in to demonstrate layout and contents.)*

Our \$14.99 paperback is available in support of **APN** for **\$14.00 U.S.** with a majority of the proceeds going back to APN and it's networks, bloggers and others.

By becoming an Affiliate through APN, you can earn **50%** (or **\$7 US**) out of every \$14 sale! (We also offer the 282-pg ebook for only \$2.50 US with 20% [\$0.50] being donated back.)

To order your copy of **IT'S A DISASTER!** [click here](#)

And consider becoming an affiliate by visiting the APN blog or forum then click on "Affiliate Programs" menu tab ... or visit

<http://www.americanpreppersnetwork.com/2010/02/affiliate-programs.html>

As always ... we're completely open to any idea that gets this data into the publics' hands and benefits APN networks, readers and communities.

Stay safe,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

Bill Liebsch

President & CEO

Fedhealth

Toll-free: 1-877-878-6824

[bill@itsadisaster.net](mailto:bill@itsadisaster.net)

# IT'S A DISASTER!

...and what are YOU  
gonna do about it?

5th Edition

A Disaster Preparedness, Prevention  
& Basic First Aid Manual

by Bill & Janet Liebsch

# IT'S A DISASTER!

...and what are YOU  
gonna do about it?

5th Edition

A Disaster Preparedness, Prevention  
& Basic First Aid Manual

by Bill & Janet Liebsch

Copyright © 1999-2009 by W. L. (Bill) and Janet Liebsch. All rights reserved. Unauthorized reproduction in any manner (electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise) is prohibited without the prior written permission of the authors (but we're easy ~ please call!)

Published by Fedhealth • Tucson, AZ • [www.itsadisaster.net](http://www.itsadisaster.net)

Prepress by Jeremy Wesanen

Printed by CDS Publications • [www.cdspubs.com](http://www.cdspubs.com)

5th Edition: August 2009

e-Book ISBN 978-1-930131-26-2

paperback ISBN 978-1-930131-25-5

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 2006938576

To order additional copies and to learn about fundraising programs and free customization, please visit

[www.itsadisaster.net](http://www.itsadisaster.net)

### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

Bill and Janet Liebsch are the founders of Fedhealth, a publishing and marketing company formed to help the public focus on preparedness and health-related issues. They are dedicated to developing and marketing programs that primarily benefit First Responders, schools, and volunteers. Fedhealth books and eBooks are continually updated on preparedness and safety-related topics.

### **DISCLAIMER**

The authors of this Manual are not licensed physicians, and the enclosed suggestions should not replace the advice of trained medical staff and officials. This information is not intended as a substitute for a first aid course, but reviews basic first aid measures that could be used when professional medical assistance is delayed or temporarily unavailable due to a major disaster or crisis. All data compiled here is for informational purposes only and neither the authors nor Fedhealth can accept responsibility for any injury, loss or damage arising from the use of this information. During a time of crisis, citizens should heed the advice of local officials over the data contained in this book.

# INTRODUCTION

If you have never been involved in any type of major disaster, count yourself among the lucky ones and realize that disasters can happen anywhere and anytime.

The confusion immediately following a disaster is scary - especially if you have not prepared yourself in advance and discussed these ideas with your family members.

Hopefully every time you see or hear about a disaster it makes you stop and think... "What if that was me or my family?" But what have YOU done to get yourself and your family ready? The best thing you can do to deal with any type of disaster is...

**BE AWARE... BE PREPARED... and... HAVE A PLAN!**

If you do these 3 things, the life you save could be your own... because what you don't know CAN hurt you!

The more the public is prepared for a disaster, the less strain we place on our local emergency services. Any major disaster will temporarily swamp First Responders, therefore, both the Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency recommend persons to try to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours following a disaster. And if you are prepared for a longer period (like 4 days to 2 weeks or more)... that's even better!

A majority of this information was compiled from various publications provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, the Red Cross, Public Safety Canada, the CDC and the Public Health Agency of Canada to help assist you in preparing for various types of disasters and basic first aid. It also offers suggestions on personal checklists and important telephone numbers for your family members and emergency groups that can be written in the spaces provided or attached inside this manual. Most importantly, there are many web sites throughout the book to help you find more information.

We realize you may not experience every type of disaster in your part of the world, but if you ever travel you could potentially be placed in a disaster situation so please educate yourself and your family.

Please stop your hectic lives for just a few hours and sit down with your entire family (from children to seniors) to read this Manual and discuss how each of you would handle these types of situations.

It will be quality time with your loved ones and could save your lives!

# CONTENTS

Disclaimer .....	ii
Dedication & Acknowledgements .....	iii
Introduction .....	iv
Disaster Facts & Figures .....	1
General Facts & Figures on Disasters .....	2
Facts & Figures by Type of Disaster .....	3

## **Section 1 - Family Emergency Plan, Kits & Shelter .....7**

Family Emergency Plan Checklist .....	8
Learn About Risks & Existing Plans .....	8
Tips on Making <u>YOUR</u> Family Plan .....	8
Tips for Elderly & Disabled Family Members .....	10
Tips for Pets or Livestock / Large Animals .....	11
Family Emergency Plan .....	12
Disaster Supplies Kit .....	14
Water .....	14
Food .....	15
First Aid Kits .....	15
Tools and Emergency Supplies .....	17
Sanitation .....	19
Clothing and Bedding .....	19
Special Items (for Infants, Elderly & Disabled, Pets) .....	20
Car Kit .....	21
Classroom / Locker / Office Kit .....	22
Suggestions and Reminders About Kits .....	23
Think About Shelter .....	24

## **Section 2 – Disaster Preparedness & Prevention .....25**

What to Do <u>BEFORE</u> a Disaster Strikes (Mitigation Tips) .....	26
What is Mitigation? .....	26
FEMA’s Mitigation Directorate .....	26
Mitigation Tips to Help Prevent Damage & Loss .....	27
Air Quality Mitigation .....	27
Earthquake Mitigation .....	27
Fire Mitigation .....	28
Flood Mitigation ( <i>2nd most common</i> ) .....	28
Lightning Mitigation .....	29
Power Loss Mitigation .....	29
Wildfire Mitigation .....	30
Wind Mitigation ( <i>most common</i> ) .....	31

Winter Storm & Extreme Cold Mitigation . . . . .	33
Mitigation Tips Summary . . . . .	34
Agencies and Groups Involved with Preparedness & Response . . . . .	36
What are <u>YOU</u> gonna do about ...	
Avalanches, Landslides & Mudflows . . . . .	37
Avalanches . . . . .	37
Landslides and Mudflows . . . . .	39
Civil Disturbances or Civil Unrest . . . . .	42
Earthquake . . . . .	43
Evacuation . . . . .	47
Extreme Heat . . . . .	50
Fires & Wildfires . . . . .	52
Fires . . . . .	52
Wildfires . . . . .	55
Flood . . . . .	57
Hailstorms . . . . .	60
Hazardous Materials . . . . .	62
Hazardous Materials Disaster . . . . .	62
Household Chemical Emergency . . . . .	65
Hurricanes, Cyclones & Typhoons . . . . .	66
Nuclear Power Plant Emergency . . . . .	72
Terrorism . . . . .	77
Before <u>ANY</u> Type of Terrorist Attack . . . . .	78
About the Homeland Security Advisory System . . . . .	79
LOW (Green) . . . . .	80
GUARDED (Blue) . . . . .	81
ELEVATED (Yellow) . . . . .	82
HIGH (Orange) . . . . .	83
Security Measures for Businesses . . . . .	84
SEVERE (Red) . . . . .	85
About Cyber Attacks . . . . .	86
Before a Cyber Attack . . . . .	87
About Chemical Agents . . . . .	88
Basic Categories . . . . .	88
BZ . . . . .	89
Chlorine . . . . .	90
Cyanide . . . . .	91
Sarin . . . . .	92
Sulfur Mustard / Mustard Gas . . . . .	93
VX . . . . .	94
Before / During / After a Chemical Attack . . . . .	96
For More Information about Chemical Agents . . . . .	98

About Biological Agents . . . . .	98
Basic Groups . . . . .	99
Anthrax . . . . .	100
Botulism . . . . .	100
Plague . . . . .	101
Ricin . . . . .	102
Smallpox . . . . .	103
Tularemia . . . . .	105
Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHFs) . . . . .	106
Before / During / After a Biological Attack . . . . .	106
For More Information about Biological Agents . . . . .	108
About Radiological Threat or Device . . . . .	109
RDD (Dirty Bomb) . . . . .	109
Bomb Threat . . . . .	109
Suspicious Package . . . . .	110
Before a Radiological Threat or Event . . . . .	111
During / After a Radiological Event or Explosion . . . . .	111
For More Information about Radiological Emergencies . . . . .	113
About Nuclear Threat or Device . . . . .	113
What Happens When a Nuke Explodes? . . . . .	114
Most Dangerous Part of Attack? (Radiation) . . . . .	115
How do I Protect Myself and My Family? (Shelters) . . . . .	118
Before / During / After a Nuclear Attack . . . . .	122
For More Information about National Security . . . . .	126
Thunderstorms . . . . .	127
Tornado . . . . .	129
Tsunami . . . . .	132
Volcanic Eruption . . . . .	135
Winter Storms & Extreme Cold . . . . .	138
Tips on Recovering from a Disaster ... . . . .	142
Emotional Recovery Tips – Handling Emotions . . . . .	142
Some Normal Reactions to Disasters . . . . .	142
Tips for Adults & Kids . . . . .	142
General Recovery Tips – AFTER a Disaster . . . . .	144
Returning to a Damaged Home . . . . .	144
Getting Help: Disaster Assistance . . . . .	146
Mitigation (Reducing the Impact for the Next Time) . . . . .	148
Tips on Shelter Living During or After an Emergency . . . . .	150
Tips on Using Household Foods . . . . .	151
Tips on Water Purification . . . . .	152
Tips on Sanitation of Human Waste . . . . .	153
Tips on Helping Others in Their Time of Need . . . . .	154
Dealing with Death or Mass Casualties . . . . .	155



**Section 3 - Information & Tips on Basic First Aid . . . . .157**

What are YOU gonna do about... an EMERGENCY? . . . . .158

- Tips on the ABCs ... Airway, Breathing & Circulation . . . . .158
- Tips on Making YOUR “Emergency Action” Plan . . . . .159
- Tips on Calling 9-1-1 for an Ambulance . . . . .160
- Tips on Reducing the Spread of Germs or Diseases . . . . .161
- Tips on Good Samaritan Laws . . . . .161

What are YOU gonna do about ...

- Bites & Stings . . . . .162
  - Animal & Human Bites . . . . .162
  - Insect Bites & Stings . . . . .162
    - Bites & Stings (in general) . . . . .162
    - West Nile Virus . . . . .164
  - Sea Critter (Marine Life) Stings . . . . .165
  - Snake Bites . . . . .166
  - Spider Bites, Scorpion Stings & Ticks . . . . .167
- Bleeding . . . . .169
  - Controlling Bleeding . . . . .169
  - Internal Bleeding . . . . .170
  - Nosebleeds . . . . .170
  - Slashed or Severed Body Parts/Amputation . . . . .170
- Breathing Problems . . . . .171
  - Asthma Attack . . . . .171
  - Rescue Breathing (Not Breathing) . . . . .171
- Broken or Fractured Bones . . . . .173
  - Tips on Splinting . . . . .173
- Burns . . . . .174
  - Burns from Fire or Hot Liquids . . . . .174
  - Chemical Burns . . . . .175
  - Electrical Burns . . . . .175
  - Sunburn . . . . .176
- Choking . . . . .177
  - Adults & Children . . . . .177
  - Infants . . . . .178
- Cold-Related Illnesses . . . . .179
  - Frostbite . . . . .179
  - Hypothermia . . . . .180
- Convulsions & Seizures . . . . .181
- CPR – See Heart Problems . . . . .188
- Dizziness & Fainting . . . . .182
- Drowning . . . . .183
- Ear Injuries . . . . .184

- Eye Injuries .....185
- Head, Neck or Spine Injuries .....187
- Heart Problems .....188
  - Heart Attack .....188
  - Cardiac Arrest (Giving CPR) .....189
- Heat-Related Illnesses .....193
  - Heat Exhaustion .....193
  - Heat Stroke .....193
- Infection .....195
- Infectious Diseases .....196
  - Influenza (flu) .....196
  - Avian flu (bird flu) .....197
  - Swine flu .....197
  - C. diff (Clostridium difficile or C. difficile) .....197
  - Staph (staphylococcus aureus & MRSA) .....198
  - Reduce the Spread of Infectious Diseases .....199
  - For More Information about Infectious Diseases .....199
- Poisoning .....200
  - Poison - Absorbed through the Skin .....200
  - Poison - Inhaled by Breathing .....201
  - Poison - Poisonous Plants .....201
  - Poison - Swallowed .....205
- Shock .....206
- Stroke .....207
- Tooth Injuries .....208

**Section 4 - Emergency Contact Names & Numbers .....209**

- About the Red Cross (American, Canadian & International) .....210
- About the Salvation Army (American, Canadian & International) ...211
- About the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) .....212
  - FEMA Partners .....212
    - Local Emergency Management Agencies .....212
    - State and Territory Emergency Management Agencies .....212
    - National Emergency Management Organizations .....216
    - Federal-level Partners .....216
    - Partnerships with the Private Sector .....217
  - National Response Framework .....217
- About Public Safety Canada .....218
  - PS Agencies .....218
  - PS Mandate .....218
  - PS Programs .....218
  - Emergency Preparedness in Canada .....219
    - Critical Infrastructure Protection .....219

Financial Assistance Programs . . . . .	219
Training and Education . . . . .	220
Public Information . . . . .	220
Partners . . . . .	220
Provincial & Territorial Emergency Management Orgs . . .	220
For More Information about Public Safety Canada . . . . .	221
APPENDIX A - Citizen Corps / CERT (Volunteer Programs) . . . . .	222
What is Citizen Corps? . . . . .	222
Citizen Corps Programs & Partners . . . . .	222
Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) . . . . .	222
Fire Corps . . . . .	222
Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) . . . . .	222
Neighborhood Watch . . . . .	223
Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) . . . . .	223
Affiliate Programs & Organizations . . . . .	223
More About CERT . . . . .	224
For More Information about Citizen Corps & CERT . . . . .	224
APPENDIX B - Business Continuity (Plan for the Unexpected) . . . . .	225
What is Business Continuity? . . . . .	225
Tips on Developing Your Business Plan . . . . .	225
Tips on Protecting Your Business . . . . .	229
Additional Business Continuity Resources . . . . .	232
APPENDIX C - School Safety Resources (Tools for Schools) . . . . .	234
End Notes . . . . .	236
Resources . . . . .	236
Additional Resources & Web Sites . . . . .	244
Index . . . . .	245



# Section 1

## Family Emergency Plan, Kits & Shelter

# FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN CHECKLIST

The next time disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act and local first responders may not be able to reach you right away. **PREPARE NOW** for a sudden emergency and discuss these ideas with your entire family to create a **Family Emergency Plan**.

Even though this checklist looks long and scary, it is easy to do and can help you make a plan. We suggest you and your family review this list, then read through the Manual since there are many tips mentioned in various topics and Sections that could help develop your plan.

PLEASE make some time in your busy lives to prepare for a disaster... a few minutes now could possibly save a life when a disaster hits. Remember - **be aware... be prepared... and have a plan!**

## LEARN ABOUT RISKS & EXISTING PLANS:

*(See Section 4 for phone numbers of State & Provincial Emergency Management offices and Red Cross - or check city/county white pages)*

- [ ] Find out which disasters could occur in your area and ask officials how to prepare for each disaster... but read this Manual first.
- [ ] Ask how you will be warned of an emergency.
- [ ] Learn your community's evacuation routes and map them out using a free online service like Google Maps or Mapquest.
- [ ] Ask about special assistance for elderly or disabled persons.
- [ ] Ask your workplace about emergency plans and learn about plans at your children's school(s) or day care center(s).

## TIPS ON MAKING YOUR FAMILY PLAN:

*(Review all and complete **Family Emergency Plan** on pages 12-13):*

- [ ] Meet with household members to talk about the dangers of fire, severe weather, earthquakes and other emergencies. Explain how to respond to each using the tips in this Manual.
- [ ] Find safe spots in your home for each type of disaster that affects your community. *(see Section 2 for explanations of each disaster)*
- [ ] Talk about what to do when there are power outages and injuries.

- [ ] Take a basic first aid and CPR class (or join a CERT - see page 224).
- [ ] Draw a floor plan of your home showing doors, windows and stairways. Mark locations of first aid and disaster kits, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, ladders, and utility shut-off points. Next, use a colored pen to draw a broken line charting at least 2 escape routes from each room. And practice drills!
- [ ] Show family members how to turn off water, gas and electricity at the main switches when necessary.
- [ ] Post emergency telephone numbers near telephones and teach children how and when to call 9-1-1. (*see Section 3*)
- [ ] Make sure household members understand they should turn on the radio for emergency information.
- [ ] Pick one out-of-state and a local friend or relative for family members to call if separated during a disaster. (It is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area.)
- [ ] Pick two emergency meeting places in case you can't go home:
  - 1) A place near your home.
  - 2) A place outside the neighborhood.
- [ ] Teach children meeting places and emergency phone numbers in case you get separated during a crisis.
- [ ] Put **ICE** before a name and number in cell phone address books so First Responders would know who to call "**In Case of Emergency**".
- [ ] Make sure family members know how to send and receive photos and text messages (if you have those capabilities on your cells). Also consider joining a network like Twitter or a local text message alert system to receive emergency broadcast warnings, updates, etc.
- [ ] Get some FRS walkie-talkies and teach family how to use them.
- [ ] Practice emergency evacuation drills with all household members at least two times each year.
- [ ] Consider doing a Living Will and/or a Healthcare Power of Attorney.
- [ ] Keep family records in a water- and fire-proof container. Consider keeping another set of records in a safety deposit box offsite.
- [ ] Check if you have enough insurance coverage. (*see Section 2 for more information on flood insurance.*)

## TIPS FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED FAMILY MEMBERS:

- [ ] Ask about special aid that may be available in an emergency for elderly and disabled family members. Find out if assistance is available for evacuation and in public shelters. FEMA suggests people with a disability register with local fire department so help can be provided quickly in an emergency (if available in your area).
- [ ] Ask your children's teachers and caregivers about emergency plans for schools, day care centers or nursing homes.
- [ ] If you currently have a personal care attendant from an agency, check to see if the agency will be providing services at another location if there is an evacuation -- and tell family members.
- [ ] Learn what to do and where to go for each type of emergency. For example, basements are not wheelchair-accessible so you should have alternate safe places for different types of disasters for disabled or elderly persons.
- [ ] Learn what to do in case of power outages and injuries. Know how to start a back-up power supply for essential medical equipment!
- [ ] If someone in the home uses a wheelchair, make sure 2 exits are wheelchair-accessible in case one exit is blocked.
- [ ] Consider getting a medical alert system that will allow you to call for help if you have trouble getting around.
- [ ] Both elderly and disabled persons should wear a medical alert bracelet or necklace at all times if they have special needs.
- [ ] Talk to your doctor to ask if you can keep a 60-90 day supply of medications and special medical parts and supplies on-hand in case of emergency.
- [ ] Consider setting up a "Buddy" system with a roommate, trusted friend or neighbor. Give buddy a copy of your **Family Emergency Plan** and an extra house key or tell them where one is available.
- [ ] Consider putting a few personal items in a lightweight draw string bag (e.g. a whistle, some medications, a small flashlight, extra hearing aid batteries, etc.) and tie it to your wheelchair or walker for emergencies. Make sure to rotate items so current and working.
- [ ] Visit the **National Organization on Disability** web site to learn more about Emergency Preparedness issues at [www.nod.org](http://www.nod.org) .

## TIPS FOR PETS OR LIVESTOCK / LARGE ANIMALS:

### TIPS FOR PETS

- [ ] If you have to evacuate your home, **DO NOT** leave pets behind! Make sure you take a secure pet carrier, leash or harness with you.
- [ ] Emergency shelters may not accept pets (unless it is a service animal). Find out which motels and hotels in your area allow pets in advance of needing them. Ask your veterinarian or animal shelter if they board animals during a disaster or emergency.
- [ ] Make sure identification tags are current and securely fastened to pet's collar or get a microchip implanted in your pet. Keep a current photo in your wallet or cell phone for identification purposes.
- [ ] Make sure a roommate, trusted neighbor or friend has an extra house key to evacuate your pets in the event you are unavailable.

### TIPS FOR LIVESTOCK / LARGE ANIMALS

- [ ] Evacuate livestock whenever possible. Make arrangements for evacuation, including routes and host sites, in advance. At least two alternate evacuation routes should be mapped out as a backup.
- [ ] The evacuation site should have food, water, veterinary care, handlers, equipment and proper facilities.
- [ ] Trucks, trailers, and vehicles for transporting animals should be available with experienced handlers and drivers to transport them.
- [ ] If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made whether to move large animals to available shelter or turn them outside. This decision should be based on the type of disaster and the soundness and location of the shelter or structure.
- [ ] If you board animals, ask if facility has an evacuation plan in place.

Next, we suggest you sit with your family and write down your **Family Emergency Plan** using the next 2 pages as a guide. Then review how to put together a **Disaster Supplies Kit** since you may not have much time if you are told to evacuate quickly.

Again, we suggest you and family members read this manual together - especially your kids - since there are many tips here that could help you make a plan and learn what to do if the unexpected happens. You may just want to review the book first and then come back to this Section later.



# FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

## EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

*(Post a copy of this information near each phone for easy access!)*

### Emergency Numbers

In a life-threatening emergency, **call 9-1-1** or local emergency number:

Police Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Ambulance: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222 (U.S. only) \_\_\_\_\_

### Out-of-State Contact

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

### Local Contact

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

### Family & Friends Work / Cell Numbers

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

### Neighbors

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

### School Information (if you have children)

Child / School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Ph#: \_\_\_\_\_

Child / School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Ph#: \_\_\_\_\_

## EMERGENCY PLAN, continued

### Family Doctors

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

### Other

Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Shelter or Humane Society: \_\_\_\_\_

Electric company: \_\_\_\_\_

Gas company: \_\_\_\_\_

Water company: \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY MEETING PLACES (OR AREAS)

In case you get separated during an emergency or disaster, decide on two Meeting Places or Areas where you can join each other. Include children in this decision so they understand why they should meet here.

1. Right outside your home \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
*(Example: meet by the curb or by the mailbox in front of home or apartment building)*

2. Away from the neighborhood, in case you cannot return home

-----  
*(maybe choose the home of a relative or family friend)*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Directions to this place \_\_\_\_\_

-----

Note: If these meeting places cannot be reached, text or send pictures of a new location or a landmark you are near so others can find you.

# DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

Disasters happen anytime and anywhere -- and, when disaster strikes, you may not have much time to respond. And sometimes services may be cut off or first responders can't reach people right away. Would you and your family be prepared to cope until help arrives?

Both FEMA and the Red Cross recommend keeping enough supplies in your home to meet your family's needs for at *least* three days (we suggest 4 days to 2 weeks or more in home.) Once disaster threatens or hits, you may not have time to shop or search for supplies ... but, if you've gathered supplies in advance in your **Disaster Supplies Kit**, your family could handle an evacuation or shelter living easier. And since everything is all together in one place... all you gotta do is **GRAB & GO!**

Put items you'd most likely need (water, food, first aid, emergency items, etc.) in a container that is easy-to-carry and that will fit in your vehicle. For example, a large trash can or storage container with a lid that snaps shut tightly (some even come with wheels), or a waterproof backpack or large duffel bag (waterproof, if possible) would be useful.

We're also including suggestions for a **CAR KIT** and a **CLASSROOM / LOCKER / OFFICE KIT** since these are usually the most common places you would be if and when a disaster strikes.

There are seven basic categories of supplies you should stock in your home kit: **water, food, first aid supplies, tools and emergency supplies, sanitation, clothing and bedding, and special items.**

Take advantage of sales and stock up as you can -- also put dates on food cans or labels to show when they were purchased. Supplies should ALL be checked every 6 months to make sure they are still good and working! We suggest you mark dates on your calendar and have the entire family help check all the items together. It'll be good quality time with the family and give you all a chance to update any phone numbers or information that has changed.

## WATER

A normally active person needs to drink at least 2 quarts (2 litres) of water each day and possibly as much as a gallon (4 litres) a day.

[ ] Store one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts/litres for drinking and two quarts/litres for food preparation and sanitation).

- [ ] Keep at least a three-day supply of water for each person in home and store extra water for pets. Rotate new bottles every 6 months since they may leak. Consider getting drums or containers for long-term water storage from a reputable dealer ... and treat the water.
- [ ] Consider purchasing a certified portable water purification filter.
- [ ] Review TIPS ON WATER PURIFICATION at end of Section 2.

## FOOD

Choose foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water. If you must heat food, pack a can of sterno or a small propane camping stove. Select foods that are compact and lightweight and rotate food out every 6 months. (Keep items like this handy in pantry too.)

- [ ] Ready-to-eat canned meats, fish, fruits, and vegetables (and put in a manual can opener!!) Make sure cans don't have dents in them.
- [ ] Canned juices, milk, soups (if powder or cubes, store extra water)
- [ ] Staples - sugar, salt, pepper
- [ ] High energy foods - peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix, nuts, jerky, dried fruits, Emergency Food bars, etc.
- [ ] Vitamins & herbs (e.g. a good multiple, Vitamins C & E, garlic pills [boosts immune], L-Tyrosine [an amino acid for stress], etc.)
- [ ] Foods for infants, elderly persons or persons on special diets
- [ ] Foods for your pet (if necessary)
- [ ] Comfort / stress foods - cookies, hard candy, suckers, sweetened cereal, instant coffee, tea bags, powdered drink mixes, etc.
- [ ] Some companies offer survival and long-term storage foods that are freeze dried and sold in months, 1-year, and 2-year supplies

## FIRST AID KITS

You should always be prepared and keep a First Aid Kit in your home and in every car and make sure everyone knows where kits are and how to use them. And if you like the outdoors (hiking, biking, etc.) you should carry a small Kit in your fanny pack or backpack as a precaution.

There are many different sizes of First Aid Kits on the market that vary in price. You can also make your own kits using things that may already be in your home. Consider including the following items in a **waterproof** container or bag so you can be prepared for almost any type of emergency.

We realize there are a lot of items suggested here, but the more you prepare ... the better off you and your family will be during a disaster situation.

### **ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN FIRST AID KIT**

- Ace bandage(s)
- Adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- Adhesive tape
- Antibiotic ointment or gel
- Antiseptic towelettes
- Assorted sizes of safety pins & needles
- Box of Baking soda
- Cleansing agent (isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide and/or soap)
- Cold & Heat packs
- Contact lens solution and Eyewash solution
- Cotton and Cotton swabs
- Copy of *IT'S A DISASTER!* manual
- Dental repair kit (usually near toothpaste section)
- Disposable Face shield for Rescue Breathing
- Disposable gloves
- Face masks (with N95 rated particulate filter and/or Nanomasks)
- Flashlight & batteries - check often to make sure it works & batteries are good (Tip: remove batteries while stored or get hand crank units)
- Gauze pads
- Hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Lip balm (one with SPF is best)
- Liquid bandage (to seal cuts or scrapes)
- Moleskin (for blisters on feet)
- Petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Plastic bags
- Roller gauze
- Scissors
- Small bottle of hand lotion
- Snake bite kit with extractor
- Sunscreen (one with SPF 30 or higher and 3 or 4 star UVA protection)
- Thermometer
- Tweezers

### **NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO INCLUDE IN FIRST AID KIT**

- Activated charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center)

- Antacid (for upset stomach)
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antihistamine and decongestant (for allergic reactions or allergies and sinus problems)
- Aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen and naproxen sodium
- Laxative
- Potassium Iodide (*see NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EMERGENCY*)
- Vitamins & herbs (e.g. a good multiple, Vitamins C & E, garlic pills or zinc [boosts immune sys], L-Tyrosine [amino acid for stress], etc.)

### **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO INCLUDE IN FIRST AID KIT**

Since it may be hard to get prescriptions filled during a disaster, talk to your physician or pharmacist about storing these types of medications. Keep a 3-month supply of medications and supplies on-hand if at all possible. And make sure to check labels for special instructions and expiration dates.

### **TIPS ON SOME INEXPENSIVE FIRST AID ITEMS**

**Activated charcoal** - absorbs poisons and drugs in the stomach and intestines and helps prevent toxins from being absorbed into the bloodstream by coating intestinal walls. (Check with the Poison Control Center before taking since it doesn't work on all toxic substances.) It's found at natural foods stores and pharmacies in powder, liquid, and capsule forms. Capsules can be broken open to use powder for making a paste on insect bites and stings.

**Baking soda** - aid for heartburn or indigestion; use as substitute for toothpaste; sprinkle in bath water for sore muscles or bites & stings; or make a paste (3 parts baking soda to 1 part water) to use on stings or insect bites, poison ivy, canker sores, sunburn, and rashes (but too strong for infants!)

**Hydrogen peroxide** - can help clean and disinfect wounds, treat canker sores, gingivitis, and minor earaches. Also can be used for cleaning hands or for brushing teeth. (The reason it foams up on skin or item is because of the oxygen at work - means it's killing germs!)

**Meat tenderizer** - (check ingredient list on bottle for "papain") make a paste to use on insect bites and stings. Papain is a natural enzyme derived from papaya that can help break down insect venom.

**Vinegar** - helps relieve jellyfish stings, sunburn, and swimmer's ear.

### **TOOLS AND EMERGENCY SUPPLIES**

The following items may come in handy if you have to evacuate or if stuck at home short or long-term.

- [ ] Aluminum foil and resealable plastic bags
- [ ] Battery-operated radio and extra batteries (remember to check batteries every 6 months). Also consider radios like the NOAA Weather Radio and Environment Canada's Weatheradio with one-alert feature that automatically alerts you when a Watch or Warning has been issued. Or get a hand crank radio with flashlight.
- [ ] Battery-operated travel alarm clock
- [ ] Cash or traveler's check and some change
- [ ] CD (could be used as a reflector to signal planes if stranded)
- [ ] Compass
- [ ] Extra copy of *IT'S A DISASTER!* manual
- [ ] Flashlight and extra batteries & bulbs (check every 6 months) or get emergency solar, hand crank or shake flashlights and lanterns
- [ ] Fire extinguisher: small canister, ABC type
- [ ] Generator (learn how to use and store it in advance)
- [ ] Manual can opener and a utility knife
- [ ] Map of the area (to help locate shelters, alternate routes, etc.)
- [ ] Matches, lighters and candles in a waterproof container
- [ ] Medicine dropper (e.g. measure bleach to purify water, etc.)
- [ ] Needles & thread
- [ ] Paper, pencil (store in baggies to keep dry)
- [ ] Paper or plastic cups, plates, utensils, a few pots & pans (or Mess Kits)
- [ ] Plastic sheeting (for shelter, lean-to, or sealing room during chemical / hazardous material threat - see *HAZARDOUS MATERIALS*)
- [ ] Radiation detection devices (like a dosimeter, etc - see page 116)
- [ ] Tape (plastic & duct), rope, twine and bungee cords

- [ ] Signal flares
- [ ] Small hand tools (pliers, screwdrivers, shovel or trowel, etc.)
- [ ] Solar (or handcrank) charger for cell phone, PDA, etc.
- [ ] Sterno or small camp stove and mini propane bottle
- [ ] Walkie-talkies (low cost set of FRS radios and store extra batteries)
- [ ] Whistle (can be used to call for help in an emergency)
- [ ] Wrench (to turn off household gas and water)

## **SANITATION**

Make sure all these items are in a waterproof containers or plastic bags.

- [ ] Disinfectant (*see TIPS ON SANITATION OF HUMAN WASTE*)
- [ ] Feminine supplies (tampons, pads, etc.)
- [ ] Household chlorine bleach (regular scent)
- [ ] Personal hygiene items (toothbrushes, toothpaste or baking soda, brush, comb, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, etc.)
- [ ] Plastic garbage bags with twist ties and small plastic grocery bags
- [ ] Plastic bucket with tight lid (for human waste use)
- [ ] Soap, liquid detergent, hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol), moist towelettes or sanitizing wipes, hydrogen peroxide, etc.
- [ ] Toilet paper and baby wipes
- [ ] Wash cloths, hand and bath towels

## **CLOTHING AND BEDDING**

- [ ] At least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person
- [ ] Sturdy shoes or work boots and extra socks
- [ ] Hats, work and regular gloves, and thermal underwear



- [ ] Blankets or sleeping bags (small emergency ones are cheap and about the size of a wallet ... or pack extra garbage bags)
- [ ] Rain gear or poncho (or use plastic garbage bags)
- [ ] Safety glasses and/or Sunglasses
- [ ] Small stuffed animal, toy or book for each child at bedtime

## **SPECIAL ITEMS**

- [ ] Entertainment - games, books and playing cards
- [ ] Important Family Documents (keep in waterproof, portable safe container and update as needed. Keep copies of papers off-site in safety deposit box or with a family member [or scan all to a CD].)
  - Extra set of car keys, cash, traveler's checks and credit card
  - Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
  - Passports, social security #s/cards, immunization records
  - Bank account numbers
  - Credit card numbers, card companies + phone numbers
  - Inventory of valuable household goods
  - Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates, photo IDs)
  - Recent pictures of all family members and pets for i.d. needs
- [ ] RED and GREEN construction paper or RED and GREEN crayons or markers (can signal rescue workers to stop or move on)

Remember to pack things for family members with special needs:

### **For Infants**

- [ ] Bottles, Formula, powdered milk, cereals and juices
- [ ] Diapers, baby wipes and diaper rash ointment
- [ ] Medications
- [ ] Small soft toys

### **For Elderly and Disabled (Children & Adults)**

- [ ] Bladder control garments and pads
- [ ] Denture needs

- [ ] Extra eye glasses or contact lenses and supplies
- [ ] Extra hearing aid batteries
- [ ] Extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, catheters or any other special equipment
- [ ] A list of style and serial numbers of medical devices such as pacemaker, defibrillator, etc. and copy of Medicare card
- [ ] List of prescription medications and dosages or allergies (if any)
- [ ] Special medicines for heart, high blood pressure, diabetes, etc.
- [ ] Store backup equipment (such as a manual wheelchair, cane or walker) at a neighbor's home or at another location

### **For Pets**

- [ ] Cage or carrier, bedding, leash, muzzle, litter & box, trash bags, etc.
- [ ] Food, manual can opener, bowls, chew toys or treats, etc.
- [ ] Medications and copies of medical / immunization records

### **CAR KIT**

Keep most or all of these items in a waterproof pack so everything is together and easy to grab. Make one for each vehicle too!

- [ ] Battery (or hand crank) radio, flashlight, extra batteries and bulbs
- [ ] Blanket (small emergency ones are cheap and the size of a wallet)
- [ ] Bottled water and non-perishable foods (Tip: store food in empty coffee cans to keep it from getting squashed)
- [ ] CD (could be used as a reflector to signal planes if stranded)
- [ ] Copy of *IT'S A DISASTER!* manual
- [ ] Extra clothes (jeans and sweater), sturdy shoes and socks
- [ ] First Aid Kit (with disposable gloves and N95 rated face masks)
- [ ] Local maps with evacuation routes pre-marked

- [ ] Personal hygiene items (hand sanitizer, toilet paper, tissues, tampons, etc)
- [ ] Plastic bags that seal
- [ ] Shovel (small collapsible ones are available)
- [ ] Short rubber hose (for siphoning)
- [ ] Small fire extinguisher (5 lb., ABC type)
- [ ] Tools - Tire repair kit, booster cables, flares, screw drivers, pliers, knife, wire or rope, etc.
- [ ] Work gloves

## **CLASSROOM / LOCKER / OFFICE KIT**

Keep items in a small pack, drawstring bag or duffel so everything is together and easy to grab!

- [ ] Battery-operated radio and extra batteries (or a hand crank radio)
- [ ] Copy of *IT'S A DISASTER!* manual
- [ ] Emergency blanket (small, cheap, & light - the size of a wallet)
- [ ] A few plastic trash bags with twist ties
- [ ] Mini flashlight and extra bulbs and batteries (or a hand crank unit)
- [ ] Non-perishable foods like crackers, cookies, trail mix, granola bars, etc. (Ask children to help choosing food and make sure they understand this is for Emergencies!)
- [ ] Personal hygiene items (packet of tissues, moist towelettes, hand sanitizer, comb, toothbrush, tampons, etc)
- [ ] Small First Aid kit (with disposable gloves and N95 face masks)
- [ ] Small stuffed animal, book, or toy (for children)
- [ ] Sweatshirt or sweater (or a full change of clothes if enough room)
- [ ] Walkie-talkies (low cost set of FRS radios and store extra batteries)

[ ] Water ... as much as you can fit! Small juice boxes are good too.

[ ] Work gloves to protect your hands (especially from broken glass)

## SUGGESTIONS & REMINDERS ABOUT KITS

Remember, both the Red Cross and FEMA recommend keeping enough supplies to meet your family's needs for at *least* three days, but consider a longer period like 96 hours or 2 weeks or more.

You may not have time to shop or search for items once a disaster threatens or hits so make your kits now so you're prepared for the unexpected.

Some things to keep in mind include ...

- Store your **Disaster Supplies Kit** in convenient place known to ALL family members. Keep a smaller version in the trunk or back of every vehicle (see CAR KIT).
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags to keep them dry in kit.
- Take advantage of end-of-season clearance sales and grocery sales (esp. can goods) and stock up as you can. Look around your home since you may be able to put a lot of these things together from what is already on shelves or in drawers or medicine cabinets.
- Replace your stored food and water supply every 6 months. It's best to test or replace batteries at this time too. Make a game of it by keeping track on a calendar or on a poster drawn by children so they can help. Also, everyone should meet every 6 months anyway to go over the **Family Emergency Plan** and update any data (phone numbers, address changes, etc.) *Suggestion: Do this every Daylight Savings time - it's twice a year on a weekend so easy to remember.*
- Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medicines.
- Visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security web site for more tips about Kits at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

# What are YOU gonna do about...

## A FLOOD?

Floods are the most common natural disaster. Some floods develop over a period of several days, but a flash flood can cause raging waters in just a few minutes. Mudflows are another danger triggered by flooding that can bury villages without warning, especially in mountainous regions.

Everyone is at risk from floods and flash floods, even in areas that seem harmless in dry weather. Always listen to the radio or TV to hear the latest updates. Some other types of radios are the NOAA Weather Radio and Environment Canada Weatheradio with battery backup and tone-alert feature that alert you when a Watch or Warning has been issued.

### **BEFORE A FLOOD (OR HEAVY RAIN):**

Prepare - Review FLOOD MITIGATION at beginning of this Section.

Learn the buzzwords - Learn the terms / words used with floods...

- **Flood watch** - flooding is possible
- **Flash flood watch** - flash flooding is possible so move to higher ground if in a low-lying area
- **Flood warning** - flooding is occurring or will occur soon so listen to radio or TV for updates or evacuation alerts
- **Flash flood warning** - flash flood is occurring so seek higher ground on foot immediately
- **Urban and Small Stream Advisory** - flooding of small streams, streets and low-lying areas is occurring

Learn risks - Ask local emergency management office if your property is a flood-prone or high-risk area and what you can do to reduce risks to your property and home. Find out what official flood warning signals are and what to do when you hear them. Ask if there are dams or levees nearby and if they could be hazards. (*also see Landslides & Mudflows on pages 39-41.*)

Be ready to evacuate - Listen to local authorities and leave if you are told to evacuate. (*see EVACUATION*)

Make a plan - Review Section 1 to develop a **Family Emergency Plan** and **Disaster Supplies Kit**. And download Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium's "Flood Recovery Booklet" to learn how to dry materials like artwork, books, photographs, CD/DVDs, etc. at [www.neilsa.org](http://www.neilsa.org)

Learn to shut off - Know where and how to shut off electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves -- and ask local utilities for instructions.

Get insurance...? - Talk to your agent and find out more about the **National Flood Insurance Program**. (see *FLOOD MITIGATION*)

### **Did you know...**

- ... you can buy federal flood insurance through most major insurance companies and licensed agents?!
- ... you do not have to own a home to have flood insurance as long as your community participates in the **NFIP**!?
- ... **NFIP** offers coverage even in flood-prone areas and offers basement and below ground level coverage?!

Put it on film/chip/drive - Either videotape or take pictures of home and personal belongings and store them in a safe place with important papers.

## **DURING A FLOOD (OR HEAVY RAIN):**

Be aware - Listen to local news and watch for flash floods especially if near streams, drainage channels, and areas known to flood. Be prepared to fill and place sandbags in areas as instructed to help combat rising waters.

Get to higher ground - If in a low-lying area, move to higher ground.

Prepare to evacuate – (see *EVACUATION*), and IF time also...

- Secure home and move important items to upper floors.
- Turn off utilities at main switches or valves if instructed by authorities and **DO NOT** touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water!
- Fill up your car with fuel.

Obey warnings - If road signs, barricades, or cones are placed in areas - **DO NOT** drive around them! Find another way or you may get fined.

### Things to avoid:

- **moving water** - 6 inches (15 cm) of moving water can knock you off your feet and 2 ft (0.6 m) can float a car
- **flooding car** - if flood waters rise around your car, get out and move to higher ground if you can do it safely
- **bad weather** - leave early enough so you're not trapped
- **flooded areas** - roadways and bridges may be washed-out
- **downed power lines** - extremely dangerous in floods!!

## AFTER A FLOOD (OR HEAVY RAIN):

### Things to avoid:

- **flood waters** - avoid since they may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage or may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines - local authorities will say when it's okay to return
- **moving water** - 6 inches (15 cm) can knock you off your feet and 2 ft (0.6 m) can float a car
- **flooded areas** - roadways and bridges may be washed-out
- **downed power lines** - extremely dangerous and report them to the power company

Obey warnings - If road signs, barricades, or cones are placed in areas - OBEY THEM! Most areas fine people who ignore posted warnings. DO NOT drive around barricades... find another way to get there!

Strange critters - Watch out for snakes and other wildlife in areas that were flooded. Don't try to care for a wounded critter since it may try to attack you... call your local animal control office or animal shelter.

Flooded food - Throw away food that has come into contact with flood waters since eating it can make you sick.

Drinking water - Wait for officials to advise when water is safe to drink. If you have a well that gets contaminated, find another source or boil water.

Wash your hands - Wash hands often with clean water and soap since flood waters are dirty and full of germs!

Use bleach - The best thing to use for cleaning up flooded areas is household bleach since it helps kill germs.

Sandbags - If any sandbags come into contact with floodwaters, wear rubber gloves when removing them and follow officials' instructions on where to discard them since they're most likely contaminated.

Listen - Continue listening to radio or TV for updates on weather and tips on getting assistance for housing, clothing, food, etc.

Insurance - Call your insurance agent or representative to discuss claims.

Mold - Consider asking a restoration professional to inspect your house for mold. (see AIR QUALITY MITIGATION)

Recovery tips - See TIPS ON RECOVERING FROM A DISASTER.

# What are YOU gonna do about...

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS?

Chemical plants are one source of hazardous materials, but there are many others that exist in large industry, small businesses, and homes. There are about 500,000 products that could pose a physical or health hazard -- things ranging from waste produced by a petroleum refinery to materials used by the dry cleaners to pesticides stored in your home.

Most hazardous materials are transported around the country by road, rail and through pipelines potentially causing spills on highways, near railroad tracks or underground. Many U.S. communities have a **Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)** that keeps local planners, companies and members of the community informed of potential risks. All companies that have hazardous chemicals must report to the LEPC every year and the public is encouraged to get involved. We [the public] should all learn more about hazardous materials and how they can affect our lives so contact your emergency management office to learn more.

We're going to cover two topics here -- **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DISASTER** (where a spill or incident affects an area or community) and **HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES** (how to handle products and react if there's an emergency in the home). Also, please review the **TERRORISM** topic since it covers several chemical and biological agents that are also classed as "hazardous materials".

### BEFORE A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DISASTER:

Learn the buzzwords - Ask your local officials about emergency warning procedures and terms...

- **Outdoor warning sirens or horns** - ask what they mean and what to listen for
- **Emergency Alert System (EAS)** - information and alerts via TV and radio
- **"All-call" telephoning** - an automated system for sending recorded messages via telephone
- **Residential route alerting** - messages announced from vehicles equipped with public address systems (loud speakers on top of car or van)

Learn risks - Ask Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Emergency Management Office, or Fire Department about community plans for responding to a hazardous materials accident at a plant or a



transportation accident involving hazardous materials. Ask about the Emergency Planning and Community Right To Know Act (or EPCRA) and help your community become better informed.

Make a plan - Use LEPC's or agency's information to determine if your family is at risk (especially people living close to freeways, railroads, or factories which produce or transport toxic waste). And review Section 1 to develop a **Family Emergency Plan** and **Disaster Supplies Kit**.

Take a tour - LEPCs sometimes visit facilities that produce or transport toxic waste and include community groups, local officials and the media.

Pick a room - It could take authorities time to determine what the hazardous material is (if any) so pick a room in advance that your family could use as "shelter-in-place" if told to stay indoors for several hours. It's best to pick an internal room where you could block out air, if instructed to do so. To save critical time consider measuring and cutting plastic sheets in advance for each opening (vents, windows, and doors). Remember, toilets / drains are vented meaning outside air comes in constantly or when flushed / open (depends on design) - in case using bathroom as safe room.

Calculate air for room - Keep in mind people can stay in a sealed off room for only so long (or you'll run out of air.) FEMA suggests 10 square feet of floor space per person (like 5ft x 2ft / 1.5m x 0.6m ) will provide enough air to prevent carbon dioxide buildup for up to 5 hours.

Be ready to evacuate - Listen to local authorities and leave if you are told to evacuate. (*see EVACUATION*)

## **DURING A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DISASTER:**

Call for help - If you see a hazardous materials accident, call 9-1-1, local emergency number, or the fire department.

Listen - Keep radio or TV tuned in for more information, especially if you hear a warning signal... and stay calm!

**IF INDOORS** – If instructed to stay inside, prepare to “shelter-in-place”...

- Close windows, vents, and fireplace dampers and turn off A/C or heat and fans to reduce air drawn in from outside.
- Keep a radio with you at all times.
- Grab **Disaster Supplies Kit** and get to a closed off room.
- Seal gaps under doorways and windows with wet towels or plastic and duct tape (see above tips on picking a room and calculating air!)

**IF OUTDOORS** - Stay upstream, uphill, or upwind from the disaster since hazardous materials can be carried by wind and water quickly. Try to get at least 1/2 mile or kilometer away or as far away as possible!

**IF IN A VEHICLE** - Close your windows and shut off vents to reduce risk.

Stay away - Get away from the accident site to avoid contamination.

Evacuate...? - If told to leave... DO it! If officials say you have time, close windows, shut vents and turn off attic fans. (*see EVACUATION*)

What to wear - Keep your body fully covered and wear gloves, socks and shoes. (Even though these may not keep you totally safe, it can help.)

Things to avoid:

- **chemicals** - spilled liquid materials or airborne mists
- **contaminated food or water** - don't eat or drink food or water that may have been exposed to hazardous materials

## **AFTER A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DISASTER:**

Don't go there - Do not return home until local authorities say it is safe.

Air out - Open windows, vents and turn on fans in your home.

Listen - Keep up with local reports from either the radio or TV.

Clean up - A person, critter or item that has been exposed to a hazardous chemical could spread it.

- **decontamination** - follow instructions from local authorities since it depends on the chemical. May need to rinse off or may be told to stay away from water - check first!
- **strange symptoms** - if unusual symptoms show up, get to a hospital or medical expert right away. Remove contaminated clothing and put on fresh, loose, warm clothing and listen to local reports on the radio.
- **store clothes & shoes** - put exposed clothing and shoes in tightly sealed containers/bags without touching other materials and ask local authorities how to get rid of them
- **tell people you've been exposed** - tell everyone who comes in contact with you that you may have been exposed to a toxic substance
- **land and property** - ask authorities how to clean area

Strange vapors or danger - Report any strange vapors or other dangers to the local authorities immediately.

To learn more about hazardous materials, check out the Programs under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Emergency Management at [www.epa.gov/emergencies](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies) ... or visit the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Hazardous Materials Safety at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/>

Or visit Environment Canada at [www.ec.gc.ca](http://www.ec.gc.ca) ... or the Canadian Transport Emergency Centre of the Department of Transport at [www.tc.gc.ca/canutec/](http://www.tc.gc.ca/canutec/)

## **BEFORE A HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL EMERGENCY:**

Learn risks - Call your local public health department or the Environmental Protection Agency for information about hazardous household materials. And check out the National Library of Medicine's Household Products Database that provides information on over 8,000 common household products and their potential health effects at <http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/>

Read labels - Always read product labels for proper use, safe storage and disposal of chemicals.

Recycle it? - Call your local recycling center or collection site to ask what chemicals can be recycled or dropped off for disposal -- many centers take things like car batteries, oil, tires, paint or thinners, etc.

Store it - Keep all chemicals and household cleaners in safe, secure locations out of reach of small children.

Put it out - Don't smoke while using household chemicals.

## **DURING A HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL EMERGENCY:**

Call for help - Call your local Poison Control Center, 9-1-1, fire department, hospital or emergency medical services. If possible, have container handy since medical professionals may need specific data from label.

First aid tips - Follow instructions on label and see Basic First Aid tips for POISONING in Section 3.

# What are YOU gonna do about...

## A TORNADO?

The U.S. has more tornadoes than anywhere else in the world (averaging about 1,000 per year), with sightings in all 50 states. Canada is # 2 in volume of tornadoes (averaging about 80 per year) with several high risk areas mostly in central provinces.

Most injuries or deaths caused by tornadoes are from collapsing buildings, flying objects, or trying to outrun a twister in a vehicle. Tornadoes can also produce violent winds, hail, lightning, rain and flooding.

As of 2007, the National Weather Service uses a new scale called the **Enhanced Fujita (EF) scale** that classifies tornadoes based on 28 Damage Indicators to more accurately estimate wind speeds.

Scale	Wind Estimate	Typical Damage <i>(per NOAA and Wikipedia)</i>
EF0	65-85 mph 105-137 km/h	<b>Light:</b> Peels off some roofs; some damage to gutters or siding; broken branches, etc.
EF1	86-110 mph 138-177 km/h	<b>Moderate:</b> Strips surface off roofs; mobile homes overturned; broken windows, etc.
EF2	111-135 mph 178-217 km/h	<b>Considerable:</b> Roofs/mobile homes destroyed; trees snap; light-object missiles generated, etc.
EF3	136-165 mph 218-266 km/h	<b>Severe:</b> Roofs/walls ripped off sturdy homes; trees debarked; heavy cars lifted & thrown, etc.
EF4	166-200 mph 267-322 km/h	<b>Devastating:</b> Well-constructed homes leveled; cars thrown; small missiles generated, etc.
EF5	> 200 mph > 322 km/h	<b>Incredible:</b> All homes leveled and swept away; car-sized missiles fly thru air over 100 metres (109 yards); structural damage to high-rises, etc.

## BEFORE A TORNADO:

Prepare - Review FLOOD, LIGHTNING, POWER LOSS and WIND MITIGATION at beginning of this Section.

Learn the buzzwords - Learn the terms / words used with tornado threats...

- **Tornado watch** - a tornado is possible - listen for updates
- **Tornado warning** - a tornado has been sighted so take shelter quickly and keep a radio with you for updates

Learn risks - Ask local emergency management office about threats in your

area, what the warning signals are, and what to do when you hear them.

Where am I? - Make sure your kids know what county or area you live in and listen for that name on radio or TV updates.

Get tuned in - Keep a battery-operated radio (with spare batteries) handy for weather forecasts and updates. (Environment Canada's Weatheradio and NOAA's Weather Radio have tone-alert features that alert you when a Watch or Warning has been issued.)

Be ready to evacuate - If officials say leave - DO it! (*see EVACUATION*)

Make a plan - Review Section 1 to develop a **Family Emergency Plan** and **Disaster Supplies Kit**.

Learn to shut off - Know where and how to shut off electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves -- ask local utilities for instructions.

Where do I go? - Know locations of shelters where you spend time (schools, nursing homes, office, etc.) The best place is underground (like a basement, a safe room, or storm cellar) or find a hallway, bathroom, or closet in middle of building on the lowest floor.

Do drills - Practice going to shelter with your family and "duck and cover" (use your hands and arms to protect head and stay down low).

Put it on film/chip/drive - Either videotape or take pictures of home and personal belongings and store them off-site with your important papers.

## **DURING A TORNADO WATCH OR WARNING:**

Review above tips and...

Listen - Keep up with local news reports tracking the twister or conditions using a battery-operated radio.

Watch & listen - Some danger signs of a tornado include dark green-ish sky, clouds moving to form a funnel, large hail, or loud roar (like a train).

Be ready to evacuate - Keep listening to authorities - if told to leave, DO it (esp if you live in a mobile home or trailer).

## **DURING A TORNADO:**

Listen - Use a battery-operated radio to hear reports tracking the twister.

Take cover - If you hear or see a tornado coming take cover immediately!

### **IF IN A TRAILER OR MOBILE HOME – GET OUT!!!**

- Get to a stronger shelter... or ...
- Stay low to ground in a ditch and cover head with hands.
- If you hear or see water in the ditch, move quickly to a drier spot (in case lightning strikes nearby).

**IF INDOORS** - Get to a safe place right away - and avoid windows!!

- In house or small building - Go to basement, storm cellar or middle of building on lowest floor (bathroom, closet or hallway). Get under something sturdy or put mattress or covers over you for protection & stay until danger passes.
- In a school, nursing home, factory or shopping center - Go to designated shelter areas (or interior hallways on lowest floor) -- stay away from open areas.
- In a high-rise building - Go to a small, interior room or hallway on lowest floor possible and avoid windows.

**IF OUTDOORS** - Try to take shelter in a basement or sturdy building. Or lie in a dry ditch with hands covering your head, but watch and listen for flooding and be aware you're a bigger target for lightning. And if you hear or see water, move since it can carry lightning's electrical charge!

**IF IN A VEHICLE** - GET OUT and take shelter in a building or lie flat in a ditch with hands covering head (but be aware you're a bigger target for lightning when lying flat & listen for flooding!) DO NOT try to out-drive a tornado! You never know which direction one will go & it moves too fast.

### **AFTER A TORNADO:**

Listen - Use a battery-operated radio to hear reports in case there are more twisters.

Be aware - Watch for broken glass and downed power lines .. and avoid damaged buildings or homes until authorities give the OK to enter.

Injured people - Do not try to move injured people unless they are in danger and call for help immediately. (*see TIPS ON BASIC FIRST AID*)

What to wear - Use sturdy work boots and gloves.

Recovery tips - See TIPS ON RECOVERING FROM A DISASTER

# What are YOU gonna do about... AN EMERGENCY?

Everyone should know what to do in an emergency. You should know who to call and what care to provide. Providing care involves giving first aid until professional medical help arrives.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a network of police, fire and medical personnel, as well as other community resources. People can help EMS by reporting emergencies and helping out victims until EMS can arrive.

During a major disaster, EMS groups will become swamped so if the public is prepared to handle some types of emergencies then we can help some of the victims until EMS arrives.

Your role in the EMS system includes the following things:

- BE AWARE...** Realize this is an emergency situation -- you could be putting yourself in danger!
- BE PREPARED...** Know how to handle the situation.
- HAVE A PLAN!** Check **ABCs...**, call 9-1-1 (or call for an ambulance) and help victim, if possible.

## TIPS ON THE ABCs... AIRWAY, BREATHING & CIRCULATION

In an emergency, you need to check the victim for **ABCs...**

- Airway.** Open the airway by tilting the head back, gently lifting the jaw up, and leaving mouth open.
- Breathing.** Place your ear over victim's mouth and nose. Look at chest, listen, and feel for breathing for 3 to 5 seconds.
- Circulation.** Check for a pulse using fingertips (not your thumb) in the soft spot between throat and the muscle on the side of the neck for 5-10 seconds.

# TIPS ON MAKING YOUR “EMERGENCY ACTION” PLAN

1. **BE AWARE...** Make sure it’s safe to approach area and victim.

Use your senses...

**Listen** for cries for help; screams; moans; explosions; breaking glass; crashing metal; gunshots; high winds; popping, humming or buzzing noises; lots of coughing, etc.

**Look** for broken glass; open medicine cabinet, container or bottle near victim; smoke; fire; vapors or mist; downed power lines, etc.

**Watch** for signs like trouble breathing; trouble talking; grabbing at throat or chest; pale or blue color in face, lips or ears; lots of people covering mouth or running away, etc.

**Smell** smoke or something burning; strong odors or vapors (leave if odor is too strong), etc.

**Feel** something burning your eyes, lungs or skin, etc.

2. **BE PREPARED...** The best thing you can do is **STAY CALM...** and **THINK** before you act!

Any time there’s an emergency or disaster, most people are scared or confused and many don’t know what to do. Take a few seconds and breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth to help slow your heartbeat and calm down. Always ask if you can help... either ask the victim or people around who may be helping.

3. **HAVE A PLAN!** Check **ABCs**, call 9-1-1 and help victim, if possible.

... Check victims’ **ABCs... Airway, Breathing, & Circulation**

... call 9-1-1, 0 for Operator or local emergency number for an ambulance (*see tips on next page*)

... help the victim, if possible -- and **STAY** until help arrives.

Before giving first aid, you must have the victim’s permission. Tell them who you are, how much training you’ve had, and how you plan to help. Do not give care to someone who refuses it - unless they are unable to respond.



## TIPS ON CALLING 9-1-1 FOR AN AMBULANCE

Whenever there is an emergency, use the following tips to help decide if you should call 9-1-1 (or local emergency number) for an ambulance.

### Call if victim...

- ... is trapped
- ... is not responding or is passed out
- ... is bleeding badly or bleeding cannot be stopped
- ... has a cut or wound so bad and deep that you can see bone or muscles
- ... has a body part missing or is torn away
- ... has pain below the rib cage that does not go away
- ... is peeing, pooping or puking blood (called passing blood)
- ... is breathing weird or having trouble breathing
- ... seems to have hurt their head, neck or back
- ... is jerking uncontrollably (called having a seizure)
- ... has broken bones and cannot be moved carefully
- ... acts like they had a heart attack (chest pain or pressure)

If you call 9-1-1 there may be a recording or delay while your call is being processed. DO NOT HANG UP -- wait for a 9-1-1 dispatcher.

### When you talk to 9-1-1 or the emergency number...

- ... try to stay CALM and describe what happened and what is wrong with the victim
- ... give the location of the emergency, your name and the phone number you are calling from
- ... follow their instructions in case they tell you what to do for the victim
- ... do NOT hang up until the 9-1-1 operator tells you to.

## TIPS ON REDUCING THE SPREAD OF GERMS OR DISEASES

Whenever you perform first aid on anyone, there is always a chance of spreading germs or diseases between yourself and the victim. These steps should be followed no matter what kind of first aid is being done -- from very minor scrapes to major emergencies -- to reduce the risk of infection.

### BE AWARE...

- ... Try to avoid body fluids like blood or urine (pee).
- ... Cover any open cuts or wounds you have on your body since they are doorways for germs!

### BE PREPARED...

- ... Wash your hands with soap and water before and after giving first aid.
- ... Have a first aid kit handy, if possible.
- ... Put something between yourself and victim's body fluids, if possible ...
  - blood or urine - wear disposable gloves or use a clean dry cloth
  - saliva or spittle – use a disposable Face Shield during Rescue Breathing
- ... Clean up area with household bleach to kill germs.

### ... and... HAVE A PLAN!

- ... *see TIPS ON MAKING YOUR "EMERGENCY ACTION" PLAN two pages back.*

## TIPS ON GOOD SAMARITAN LAWS

The definition of a "Samaritan" is a charitable or helpful person. Most states have Good Samaritan laws that were designed to protect citizens who try to help injured victims with emergency care. If a citizen uses "logical" or "rational" actions while making wise or careful decisions during an emergency situation then they can be protected from being sued.

To learn more about your state's Good Samaritan laws, check with your local library, search the web or contact an attorney.

# What are YOU gonna do about...

## BURNS?

Depending on how bad a burn is will determine what it is called:

**First degree burns** - hurts only top layer of skin; turns pink or red; some pain and swelling; no blisters (usually from sun, chemicals, or touching something hot)

**Second degree burns** - hurts the two upper layers of skin; very painful and causes swelling that lasts several days; blisters and possibly scars (usually from deep sunburn, chemicals, fire or hot liquid spills)

**Third degree burns** - hurts all skin layers and possibly tissue; charred, raw or oozing areas; destroys cells that form new skin; nerve cells are destroyed and can take months to heal (usually from being exposed to fire or electrical shock for a long time). Can cause severe loss of fluids, shock and death.

## BURNS FROM FIRE OR HOT LIQUIDS

### Things to watch for...

**Skin is red and swollen**

**Blisters may open and ooze clear or yellowish fluid**

**Minor to Severe Pain**

### What to do...

- BE AWARE... and don't put yourself in danger!
- Stop the burning by putting out flames and move victim from source of the burn. (If victim is on fire, tell them to STOP, DROP and ROLL!)
- Cool burn by using large amounts of running cool water for about 10 minutes. For hard to reach areas, wet a cloth, towel or sheet and carefully keep adding water.
- Try to remove clothing, rings or jewelry in case of swelling. (DO NOT remove items stuck to burned areas!)
- Cover burn with a sterile bandage or clean cloth. (Try to keep fingers and toes separated with bandage or cloth.)
- Seek medical attention, if necessary.

### Things you should NOT do...

- DO NOT break any blisters!
- DO NOT remove any item that sticks to skin!

- DO NOT apply any creams, oils or lotions to the burns - wait for the medical experts!

## **CHEMICAL BURNS**

*Also see TERRORISM (in Section 2) for information, signs & symptoms, and treatment for several chemical agents in liquid, solid or aerosol forms that may cause chemical burns.*

### **Things to watch for...**

**Rash or blisters**  
**Trouble breathing**  
**Dizziness or headache**  
**Name of the chemical**

### **What to do...**

- Rinse area with cool running water at least 15 minutes.
- Remove any clothing, rings or jewelry that may have the chemical on it.
- Make note of chemical name for medical staff or hospital.

## **ELECTRICAL BURNS**

### **Things to watch for...**

**Electrical appliances or wires**  
**Downed power lines**  
**Sparks and/or crackling noises**  
**Victim may have muscle spasms or trembling**  
**Lightning during a storm**

### **What to do...**

- BE AWARE... don't put yourself in danger! If power line is down, wait for Fire Department or Power Company.
- DO NOT go near victim until power is OFF! Pull plug at wall outlet or shut off breaker. Once off, okay to touch victim.
- If victim struck by lightning, they can be touched safely!
- Check **ABCs ... Airway, Breathing, & Circulation** if victim is passed out - you may need to do Rescue Breathing or CPR. (*see BREATHING PROBLEMS and HEART PROBLEMS*)

*Continued on next page ...*

- Don't move victim unless they are in danger.
- There should be 2 wounds - usually have enter and exit burns.
- DO NOT try to cool the burn with anything.
- Cover burn with a dry sterile bandage or clean cloth.
- Seek medical attention, if necessary.

## **SUNBURN**

Sunblocks and lotions should be applied at least 20 minutes **BEFORE** going in the sun so it can be absorbed into skin layers, especially on your little ones! Use one with SPF 30 or higher and 3 or 4 star UVA protection.

Remember... dark colors absorb heat so best to wear light or white colors to reflect sunlight. And you can get sunburned on cloudy days just as easily as sunny days - if you can see a shadow, you're still catching some rays.

### **Things to watch out for...**

**Blisters or bubbles on the skin**  
**Swelling or pain**

### **What to do...**

- Cool the burn by using cool cloths or pure aloe vera gel.
- Get out of sun or cover up to avoid further damage.
- Take care of blisters by loosely covering them and don't pick at them!

### **To help relieve the pain from a sunburn if NO blisters exist:**

**Aloe vera** - Break open a fresh leaf or use 96-100% pure aloe gel.

**Baking soda** - Add 1/2 cup baking soda to a warm bath and soak for half an hour.

**Vinegar** - Put some regular or cider vinegar on a cloth and apply to sunburned area.

**Whole milk** - Apply a cool compress soaked in whole milk to the area.

# What are YOU gonna do about...

## A STROKE?

According to the American Stroke Association, about 700,000 Americans suffer strokes each year and almost 1/4 of those victims die making stroke the #3 killer in the U.S. Canada reports about 40,000-50,000 new strokes annually killing about 16,000 Canadians making it the 4th leading cause of death according to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

A stroke (or “brain attack”) occurs when oxygen and vital nutrients carried by blood are cut off causing brain cells to die. It’s cut off because...

...a blood vessel is blocked in the neck or brain (by a blood clot or narrowing of an artery) -- called an **ischemic** [is-KEM-ik] stroke (*causes about 83% of strokes*)

... **or** ...

...a blood vessel bursts or leaks -- called **hemorrhagic** [hem-o-RAJ-ik] stroke or bleeder (*causes 17% of strokes*)

**NOTE:** You only have 2 - 6 hours maximum to stop permanent brain damage from a stroke - so get to a hospital as quickly as possible (within 3 hours is best!)

### Things to watch for...

**Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding**

**Loss of muscle control on one side of the body**

**Loss of balance, stumbling, dizziness or fainting**

**Different sized pupils** (one pupil small / one enlarged)

**Severe headache**

**Blurred or double-vision in one or both eyes**

**Shock** (pale, cold or clammy, weak or rapid pulse, etc.)

**Transient ischemic attack (TIA / mini-stroke)** - a minor or warning stroke - risk of major stroke is high

### What to do...

- Call 9-1-1 for an ambulance.
- Get victim to lie back with head raised (put pillows or blankets under head and shoulders so partially sitting up).
- Loosen any tight or restrictive clothing.
- See if there are any other injuries.
- If victim is drooling or having problems swallowing, place them on their side to keep the airway open.
- Stay with victim until medical help arrives.

# APPENDIX A

## Citizen Corps / CERT

(Volunteer Programs for Americans & Canadians)

### WHAT IS CITIZEN CORPS?

**Citizen Corps** was created to help coordinate volunteer activities that make the nation's communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation. Citizen Corps is managed at local levels by Citizen Corps Councils, which bring together existing crime prevention, disaster preparedness, and public health response networks with the volunteer community and other groups.

### CITIZEN CORPS PROGRAMS & PARTNERS

**Community Emergency Response Teams** (CERTs) educate people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Using their training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and can take a more active role in preparing their community. The program is administered by DHS. Learn more at [www.citizencorps.gov/cert](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert)

**Fire Corps** promotes the use of citizen advocates to enhance the capacity of resource-constrained fire and rescue departments at all levels: volunteer, combination, and career. Citizen advocates can assist local fire departments in a range of activities including fire safety outreach, youth programs, and administrative support. Fire Corps provides resources to assist fire and rescue departments in creating opportunities for citizen advocates and promotes citizen participation. Fire Corps is funded through DHS and is managed and implemented through a partnership between the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Visit [www.firecorps.org](http://www.firecorps.org)

**Medical Reserve Corps** (MRC) strengthens communities by helping medical, public health and other volunteers offer their expertise throughout the year as well as during local emergencies and other times of community need. MRC volunteers work in coordination with existing local emergency response programs and also supplement existing community public health initiatives, such as outreach and prevention, immunization programs, blood drives, case management, care planning, and other efforts. The MRC program is administered by the Department of Health & Human Services. Check out [www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)

**Neighborhood Watch** incorporates terrorism awareness education into its existing crime prevention mission, while also serving as a way to bring residents together to focus on emergency preparedness and emergency response training. Funded by Department of Justice, Neighborhood Watch is administered by the National Sheriffs' Association. Learn more at [www.usaonwatch.org](http://www.usaonwatch.org)

**Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)** works to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. VIPS serves as a gateway to resources and information for and about law enforcement volunteer programs. Funded by DOJ, VIPS is managed and implemented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. To learn more visit [www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org)

Citizen Corps **Affiliate Programs & Organizations** offer communities resources for public education, outreach, and training; represent volunteers interested in helping to make their community safer; or offer volunteer service opportunities to support first responders, disaster relief activities, and community safety efforts. Some Affiliates include:

The **American Radio Relay League (ARRL)** represents the interests of the more than 650,000 U.S. Radio Amateurs (or "HAMS"). Many amateurs have organized themselves under a formal structure to better provide public service and emergency communications like the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). Learn more by visiting [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) or contact your local Emergency Management office.

**Civil Air Patrol** is a congressionally chartered, non-profit corporation and is the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. CAP supports Homeland Security efforts by providing coastal patrol, air/ground observation, radio communications and relay, aerial reconnaissance, air-to-ground photography, radiological monitoring, and disaster and damage assessment assets. Learn more by visiting [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com)

**National Association for Search and Rescue** is a non-profit membership association comprised of thousands of paid and non-paid professionals interested in all aspects of search and rescue throughout the United States and around the world. NASAR has trained over 30,000 responders since 1989 utilizing its internationally respected SARTECH® Certification Program. NASAR is dedicated to ensuring that volunteers (non-paid professionals) in search and rescue are as prepared as the career public safety personnel (fire, law and emergency medical services) with whom they work on a daily basis. Learn more at [www.nasar.org](http://www.nasar.org).

Some other Affiliates include The American Legion, Home Safety Council, National Safety Council, National Voluntary Organizations Active in



Disaster (NVOAD) and many others. To learn more about **Citizen Corps** or to check if there's a local council in your community, please visit [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov).

## MORE ABOUT CERT

In the United States and Canada, the **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program helps train volunteers to assist first responders in emergency situations in their communities. CERT members give critical support to first responders in emergencies, provide immediate assistance to victims, organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site, and collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.

The CERT course is taught in the community by a trained team of first responders who have completed a CERT Train-the-Trainer course conducted by their state training office for emergency management, or FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI), located in Emmitsburg, Maryland. CERT training includes disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, and light search and rescue operations and is usually delivered in 2-1/2 hour sessions, one evening a week over a 7 week period.

FEMA's online "Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams", IS 317, is an independent study course that serves as an introduction to CERT for those wanting to complete training or as a refresher for current team members. It has six modules with topics that include an Introduction to CERT, Fire Safety, Hazardous Material and Terrorist Incidents, Disaster Medical Operations, and Search and Rescue. It takes between six and eight hours to complete the course. The IS 317 can be taken by anyone interested in CERT. However, to become a CERT volunteer, one must complete classroom training offered by a local government agency such as the emergency management agency, fire or police department. To learn more, visit [www.citizencorps.gov/cert/IS317/](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/IS317/)

For more information about CERT programs or to check if a CERT is in your community, please visit [www.citizencorps.gov/cert/](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/) ... or visit [www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com) (click on "Other CERT Team Links") ... or call your local, state, provincial, or territorial Emergency Management Office to ask about volunteer opportunities.

Or visit your local or state / provincial web site to learn about other types of volunteer groups in your area and get involved!

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & WEB SITES

WEB SITES (\* = COOL STUFF FOR EDUCATORS, KIDS & PARENTS)

**American Avalanche Association** [www.americanavalancheassociation.org](http://www.americanavalancheassociation.org)

**American Heart Association** [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)

**American Stroke Association** [www.strokeassociation.org](http://www.strokeassociation.org)

\* **British Columbia Injury Prevention Centre** [www.injuryfreezone.com](http://www.injuryfreezone.com)

**Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness** [www.ccepc.ca](http://www.ccepc.ca)

**Central Intelligence Agency** [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)

\* **CIA's Homepage for Kids** <https://www.cia.gov/kids-page/index.html>

**DisasterHelp** [www.disasterhelp.gov](http://www.disasterhelp.gov)

\* **Environment Canada** [www.ec.gc.ca](http://www.ec.gc.ca)

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

\* **EPA's Environmental Kids Club** [www.epa.gov/kids](http://www.epa.gov/kids)

**Federal Bureau of Investigation** [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)

\* **FBI - For the Family** [www.fbi.gov/fbikids.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/fbikids.htm)

\* **FEMA for Kids** [www.fema.gov/kids](http://www.fema.gov/kids)

**Health Canada** [www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca)

**Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada** [www.heartandstroke.ca](http://www.heartandstroke.ca)

**Humane Society Disaster Services Program** [www.hsus.org/disaster](http://www.hsus.org/disaster)

**Institute for Business and Home Safety** [www.disastersafety.org](http://www.disastersafety.org)

**Insurance Bureau of Canada** [www.ibc.ca](http://www.ibc.ca)

**Munich Re Group's Press Releases** [www.munichre.com](http://www.munichre.com)

**National Fire Protection Association** [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

**National Hazards Center (Univ. of Colorado)** [www.colorado.edu/hazards/](http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/)

**National Safety Council** [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)

**NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration)** [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)

**OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration)** [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

**Physicians for Civil Defense** [www.physiciansforcivildefense.org](http://www.physiciansforcivildefense.org)

**U.S. Department of Defense DefenseLINK** [www.defenselink.mil](http://www.defenselink.mil)

\* **U.S. Fire Administration** [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov)

\* **U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission** [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)

**U.S. Small Business Administration** [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

\* **U.S.G.S. Earthquake Hazards Program** [www.earthquake.usgs.gov](http://www.earthquake.usgs.gov)

\* **U.S.G.S. Volcano Hazards Program** <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov>

**World Nuclear Association** [www.world-nuclear.org](http://www.world-nuclear.org)

More resources available on our "Links" page at [www.itsadisaster.net](http://www.itsadisaster.net)

# INDEX

## A

- activated charcoal, first aid uses for, 17, 163
- air pollution, ozone alerts, 51
- air quality
  - improving with HEPA filter, 27, 230
  - mitigation tips, 27
- American Red Cross. *See also* Canadian Red Cross
  - about, 210
  - assistance following disasters, 146
  - business continuity information, 233
  - FEMA partner, 217
- amputation, emergency measures, 170
- anthrax (biological agent)
  - about, 100
  - how spread, 100
  - signs and symptoms of exposure, 100
  - treatment, 100
- asthma attack, first aid treatment, 171
- avalanches. *See also* landslides
  - basics, 37
  - facts and figures, 3
  - safety information, 37-39
- avian flu (bird flu). *See also* infectious diseases
  - about, 197
  - pandemic planning, 231-232
  - reducing the spread of, 198-199
  - symptoms, 197
  - where to get more information, 199

## B

- baking soda
  - first aid uses for, 17
  - paste for insect bites or stings, 163
  - paste for rash, 202
  - paste for sea critter sting, 166
  - soak for sunburn, 176
  - use to put out small grease or oil fire, 53
- bedding, items to include in disaster supplies kit, 19-20
- biological agents, 78. *See also* terrorism
  - about, 98-108
  - basic groups of, 99
  - how used in an attack, 99
  - safety information, 78, 98-108
    - after an attack, 108

- before an attack, 106-107
- during an attack, 107-108
- types of, 100-106
  - anthrax, 100
  - botulism, 100-101
  - plague, 101-102
  - ricin, 102-103
  - smallpox, 103-105
  - tularemia, 105
  - viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHFs), 106
- where to get more information, 108
- bioterrorism. *See also* biological agents
  - using animals and insects to carry, 99
  - where to get more information, 108, 165
- bites
  - animals or humans, first aid treatment, 162
  - snakes, first aid treatment, 166-167
  - ticks, first aid treatment, 167-168
- bites and stings
  - insects, first aid treatment, 162-163
  - marine animals (sea critters), first aid treatment, 165-166
  - spiders and scorpions, first aid treatment, 167-168
- bleeding
  - controlling, 169
  - internal, first aid treatment, 170
  - nosebleeds, 170
- blister/vesicants (chemical agent), 88. *See also* terrorism
  - mustard gas, 93-94
- body parts, severed or amputated, emergency measures, 170
- bomb
  - dirty, about, 109-113
  - nuclear, about, 113-126
  - spreading chemicals with a, 88
- bomb threat
  - suspicious packages in mail, dealing with, 110
  - what to do if you receive a, 109-110
- bones, broken or fractured, first aid treatment, 173
- botulism (biological agent)
  - about, 100
  - how spread, 101
  - signs and symptoms of exposure, 101
  - treatment, 101
- breathing problems, 171-172
- burns, 174-176
  - chemical, first aid treatment, 175
  - electrical, first aid treatment, 175-176
  - fire or hot liquids, first aid treatment, 174-175

This Manual is available through the following methods:

- for agencies, companies, and groups to use as customized **giveaways** for employees, customers and communities (*50% to 75% off list ~ provides minimum \$4-to-\$1 match on grants*)
- for K-12 schools and volunteers to use as a **fundraising** project (*Ad Program, Affiliate Program, Referral Program, and Traditional Fundraiser*)
- for qualified Resellers to offer online and in stores
- for individual purchase from nonprofits and bookstores nationwide and online.

Also available as a downloadable **eBook**, customized **CDs**, and customized bulk eBooks. Plus customizable booklets available ~ call for details!

For more information, please call  
Fedhealth at 1-888-999-4325  
or visit us online at  
**[www.itsadisaster.net](http://www.itsadisaster.net)**

**BE AWARE... BE PREPARED... and HAVE A PLAN!**  
*This book may save your life!*

**Is your family or business *really* prepared for  
a disaster or emergency?**

**Look inside to see how to ...**

- **Protect your family and property from natural disasters**
- **Prepare for Chem / Bio, cyber, or nuclear threats**
- **Reduce the spread of infectious diseases like swine flu**
- **Make a Family Emergency Plan with tips for kids, elderly and special needs family members, and pets**
- **Assemble "Grab & Go" kits for home, car and office**
- **Plan for shelter, water purification, food preparation, and sanitation**
- **Apply basic first aid if help is not readily available**
- **Develop a Business Continuity Plan**

**... plus lots of resources and much more!**

This book needs to be in every home in North America.  
-- *The American Civil Defense Association* [www.tacda.org](http://www.tacda.org)

This is the best single source of guidance for the public I have encountered.  
-- *Gary O'Keefe, Retired Firefighter & Disaster Services Coordinator,  
MVFD & Latah County, Idaho*

**\$14.99 U.S.**

