



Disaster Preparedness: A Checklist

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Americans are eager to make preparedness a part of their daily lives. The following checklist will help you take the necessary steps to protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a future terrorist attack or other emergency.

For more detailed information on disaster preparedness, see www.fema.gov and www.redcross.org.

- ___ Make a list of important phone numbers, such as nonemergency numbers for the police and fire departments, FBI field office, and local emergency management office, and post it by your telephone. Make sure children know how to dial 911 or "0" in an emergency.
- ___ Develop a communications plan for your family. Choose someone who does not live with you (preferably out-of-town) that you and other family members can contact to check on each other in the event that you are separated during a disaster. Carry the number in your wallet.
- ___ Establish a meeting place for family members if home or neighborhood evacuation is necessary. Pick one place near your home and one outside your neighborhood in case you can't return after a disaster.
- ___ Assemble an emergency preparedness kit that contains the following supplies:
 - ___ *three- to five-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day)*
 - ___ *food that will not spoil and requires no cooking*
 - ___ *first-aid kit and needed medicine*
 - ___ *emergency tools, such as a battery-powered radio, cell phone, flashlight*
 - ___ *extra batteries*
 - ___ *personal items like toilet paper and plastic garbage bags*
 - ___ *change of clothing and blankets for each person*
 - ___ *portable generator if possible*
- ___ Take a basic course in CPR and first-aid.
- ___ Learn how to turn off water, gas, and electricity at main switches.
- ___ Learn about emergency plans for your children's school or day care center.
- ___ Draw a floor plan of your home and mark two escape routes from each room. Practice your evacuation plan.
- ___ Know your community's evacuation routes.
- ___ Work with your Neighborhood Watch group or civic association to create a community disaster preparedness plan.



Disasters and Being Prepared:

There are all kinds of disasters that can strike at any time from the recent ice and snowstorm that we just had that left citizens without power and water for an extended period to tornados that are prevalent in our part of the country. Fires, floods or excessive amounts of water that may happen for various reasons that may flood a home or property.

Chances are that we in our little community will never see a terrorist attack happen however the attached "Disaster Preparedness: A Checklist" contains suggestions on how to be prepared for different situations. How well do you know your house, do you know how to turn off the power or the water, at the house or at the street? Do you have a first aid kit? Do you know how to do CPR or basic first aid? Do you have a supply of water on hand if the water supply goes out or goes bad? Flashlights with extra batteries or a rechargeable solar battery backup for your cell phone in case power is out for an extended period. If you have someone in the home that is diabetic, insulin or hard candy in case of a seizure, aspirin for someone that may have a heart condition? Fannin county Office of Emergency Management offers CERT (Civilian Emergency Response Training) training for disaster training.

BE PREPARED!!!