

Disaster Preparedness

Be Informed - A disaster can happen anytime, anywhere! Be prepared! Learn the hazards for the area you live in. In North Texas, we can experience severe weather, such as tornados, hail, and wind. Other disasters include wildfires, and although rare, hurricanes and earthquakes. Learn about these hazards and how you can stay informed when they threaten.

Make a Plan – Create a plan; make sure to include your children in the planning. Have a plan for your pets and livestock. Make sure your family knows where to take shelter during severe weather. Learn the location of and how to turn off utilities in your home (if you have gas, please remember that if you turn off the gas, only the gas company can turn it back on). Have a meeting place in case you are separated from your family. If possible, have an out of state contact that all your family members can contact to let them know that you are ok.

Build a Kit - Create a kit for your home, work, and vehicle. After a disaster, you may be on your own for up to 72 hours until the first responders can reach you and your family. Your kit should contain food, water, and other essential items you will need for at least three days. If you have children, include them in the planning. Do not forget to create a disaster kit for your pets. Keep your kit in a designated place where you can quickly find it. Make sure every family member knows where the kit is located.

Work – A disaster can happen while you are at work. Make sure to keep a kit at work.

Vehicle - Keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car. This kit should include items such as: jumper cables, flashlights with extra batteries, first aid kit and necessary medications in case you are away from home for a prolonged time, food items containing protein such as nuts and energy bars, canned fruit and a portable can opener, water for each person and pet, and a AM/FM radio to listen to traffic reports and emergency messages. During the winter months include cat litter or sand for better tire traction, shovel, ice scraper, warm clothes, gloves, hat, sturdy boots, jacket, and an extra change of clothes, blankets or sleeping bags.

Be prepared for an emergency. When the electricity goes out gas pumps and ATMS will not work. Keeping your gas tank full and cash on hand is always a good idea. If you find yourself stranded, be safe and stay in your car, put on your flashers, call for help and wait until it arrives.