Family First Emergency Plan

Ask yourself this question: Where will you be during an emergency or disaster in your community?

If you answered, "At home," you should develop a Family First Emergency Plan.

The Family First Plan recognizes that first responders are often called away during a disaster. It helps families members with the information and supplies necessary to survive on their own. As first responders, we understand the importance of communications during any emergency. 

Communications with your family during times of emergency should be your first priority.

FAMILY

- Maintain at least one cordless and one land line phone in your home. Cordless phones will work during a power outage.
- Have a battery operated or hand crank AM/FM radio with weather band. The radio will provide essential emergency updates, weather warnings and Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages.
- Develop a list of non-emergency phone numbers. Include direct phone numbers for your work location (fire stations, patrol areas, ambulance supervisors and co-workers). Keep a copy of this list at home, work and in your vehicle.
- Determine an out of the area contact person and phone number. This person can relay information to your family. This contact should be someone you can count on to be available throughout an emergency.

EMERGENCY KIT

- Prepare a small emergency kit in each vehicle. The kit should include at least a flashlight, emergency blanket and jumper cables.

HOME SAFETY PLAN

- Make a family safety plan. Ask yourself this question: Where would your family go if you had to leave your home? Your plan should include where the family will meet if you are separated or unable to find each other. Your plan should also include directions and routes from each room, an outside meeting place and the ability to call 911 from outside the home (cell or cordless phone, neighbor’s house).
- Determine alternate lighting and heat sources. Many homes require power to operate heating systems. Identify how your family will heat your home during an outage.
- If an alternate heat source is not available, identify where the family can relocate. Have alternate heating systems and space heaters available, such as a fireplace or wood stove. If your plan include the use of a portable generator, identify a safe operating location and venting system. Your generator should be placed outside of the building, away from windows, doors and vents.
- Be familiar with the location of utility shutoffs. If necessary, power should be terminated at the main breaker. Leave all electrical switches turned on. If your home is equipped with a natural gas meter, you may be required to open all gas valves to release the natural gas. If your home is equipped with a bottled gas meter, you must turn off all gas valves. This will result in the building’s air has been exchanged with the now clean outdoor air. Follow any special instructions given by emergency authorities to avoid chemical or radiological contaminants.
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COMMUNICATION PLAN

- As first responders, we understand the importance of communications during any emergency.
- Keep a copy of this list at home, work and in your vehicle.
- Hobbies to practice for responders to check in as often as the family would like, set a schedule and make a point to check in. Every two hours may be

Habitat, prepare an emergency kit. Remember, you are not outfitting a fallout shelter. Be prepared to leave the home in three days. Your kit may be several small kits (food, first aid, clothes, etc.) located throughout the home. If told to evacuate, take all medications you need for the next three days. Your kit should be able to sustain the family for three days. Your kit may be

Once you have completed the communication plan, develop a home safety plan. This plan will include information on how the family should react for direct types of emergencies (fire, earthquakes, etc.).

- Create a fire safety plan and practice a home fire drill. The plan should include operate smoke detectors, identify your escape routes and learn what to do if the light switch is broken.
- If you are told to shelter in place bring children and pets indoors immediately. Close and lock all outside doors and windows. Shutter outside windows, install a fire retainer in the window if necessary. Turn off the heating, ventilation or air conditioning system. Turn off all fans, including bathroom fans operated by utility shutoffs. When you turn off the heating, ventilation or air conditioning system, you help prevent the spread of chemicals. This may be necessary if primary phone communications are lost. Choose a friend or family member who would not be affected by the same emergency and designate a meeting place outside of the disaster. This plan should be updated annually. If designated, have a copy of this plan with you at all times.
- Develop a list of non-emergency phone numbers. Include direct phone numbers for your work location (fire stations, patrol areas, ambulance supervisors and co-workers). Keep a copy of this list at home, work and in your vehicle.
- Determine an out of the area contact person and phone number. This person can relay information to your family. This contact should be someone you can count on to be available throughout an emergency.
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