

ARE YOU READY?

Fall 2006

THE NEED TO PREPARE

Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousand of lives every year. Each disaster has lasting effects -people are seriously injured, some are killed, and property damage runs in the billions of dollars.

It is apparent that all of us have the responsibility to take action to protect ourselves and our families.

This handout has been developed to help reduce the impact an emergency has on your lives and to help deal with the chaos if an incident does occur.

The Department of Homeland Security has a very informative website, www.ready.gov, to help you prepare for potential threats we may face.

There is also a FEMA publication titled, "Are you Ready? A Guide for Citizen Preparedness", which you can request online for no charge.

There are things you can do right now to be safer—they include:

- Check and change the batteries in your smoke alarms and replace all alarms that are more than 10 years old
- Make sure you know where your local fire dept., police station, and hospital are and post a list of emergency phone numbers near all the telephones in your home.
- Organize and practice a family fire drill—make sure your children know what your smoke detector sounds like and what to do if it goes off when they are sleeping.
- Locate the utility mains for your home and be sure you know how to turn them off manually; gas, electricity, and water.
- Create an emergency plan for your household, including your

pets. Decide where your family will meet if a disaster does happen.

- Prepare a 3-day disaster supply kit (see article on other side).
- Check the expiration dates of all over-the-counter medications, discard all that are expired and replace them routinely.
- Keep household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper on hand. When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach can be used as a disinfectant or emergency drinking water.
- Have your cell phone available.



EMERGENCY PLANNING

After an emergency, essential services may be cut off and local disaster relief and government responders may not be able to reach you right away.

Knowing what to do to protect yourself and your household is essential.

One important step you can take in preparing for emergencies is to develop a household

disaster plan, which includes an emergency supply kit.

The following page will assist you in developing a disaster plan and a recommended Emergency supply kit.

In the case of emergency—please dial 9-1-1

Important Phone Numbers:

Winfield Township-Supervisor

- 630-231-3591

Winfield Township-Assessor

- 630-231-3573

Winfield Township-Highway

- 630-231-8850

West Chicago Fire Dept.

- 630-231-2123

West Chicago Police Dept.

- 630-293-2222

West Chicago City Hall

- 630-293-2200

Warrenville Fire Dept.

- 630-393-1381

Warrenville Police Dept.

- 630-393-2131

Warrenville City Hall

- 630-393-9427

Winfield Fire Dept.

- 630-653-5050

Winfield Police Dept.

- 630-933-7160

Winfield City Hall

- 630-933-7100

Wheaton Fire Dept.

- 630-260-2175

Wheaton Police Dept.

- 630-260-2161

Wheaton City Hall

- 630-260-2000

Aurora Fire Dept.

- 630-897-7821

Aurora Police Dept.

- 630-859-1700

Aurora City Hall

- 630-844-4870

DuPage Co. Sheriff's Office

- 630-407-2400

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ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

An emergency supply kit should include the following items and should be kept in a designated place and be ready to “grab and go” in case you have to leave your home quickly because of disaster, such as flashflood, tornado, severe storm, or major chemical emergency.

Make sure all household members know where the kit is kept.

Items to include are:

- Water-one gallon of water per per-

son per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation

- Food-at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask-to help filter contaminated

air

- Moist towelettes and soap
- Garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener (if kit contains canned food) or razor Swiss type
- Local maps and a compass
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Duct tape and scissors
- Disinfectant

CREATING A DISASTER PLAN

- Learn about natural disasters that could occur in our community.
- Talk with household about potential emergencies and how to respond to them.
- Plan how your household will stay in contact if you are separated.
- Pick a friend or relative who lives out of the area for

people to call to say they are OK.

- Draw a floor plan of your home, and mark two escape routes for each room.
- Make sure everyone in your household knows how and when to shut off water, gas, and electricity at the main switches.
- Take a first aid and CPR class.

- Reduce economic impact on your property, health and financial well being by making sure all insurance policies (house, life, health) are current and meet your needs.
- Keep a small amount of money on hand.
- Consider ways to help neighbors who may need special assistance.