



## FAMILY DISASTER SUPPLY KIT



There are basic items that you should stock for your disaster supply kit: water, food, clothing and bedding, first aid supplies, tools and emergency supplies and special items. Keep these items in a waterproof container that can be easily transported from your home to your car and your safe place. Assemble your kit now to allow for immediate action during an emergency. Your family's disaster supply kit should include at least a three-day supply of:

- Water – One gallon of water per person per day
- Non-perishable food – Select food items that are compact and lightweight. Include the following items:
  - Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
  - Canned juices
  - High energy foods
  - Vitamins
  - Comfort foods
  - Condiments
  - Food for infant
- Clothing and bedding – Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person and the following weather-appropriate items:
  - Sturdy shoes or work boots
  - Rain gear
  - Blankets or sleeping bags
  - Hats and gloves
  - Thermal underwear
  - Sunglasses
- First aid supplies – Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car
- Tools and emergency supplies
  - Emergency preparedness manual
  - Flashlight and extra batteries
  - Non-electric can opener, utility knife
  - Tube tent
  - Tape
  - Matches in a waterproof container
  - Plastic storage containers
  - Paper, pencil
  - Medicine dropper
  - Sanitation supplies
  - Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
  - Cash or travelers' checks, change
  - Extra Fuel for portable grills and stoves
  - Fire extinguisher: small canister ABC-type
  - Pliers, Hammer, Nails, and Screwdriver
  - Compass
  - Aluminum foil
  - Signal flare
  - Needles, thread
  - Shut-off wrench to turn off household water
  - Plastic sheeting
  - Official TXDot Travel Map and evacuation maps
  - Paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
  - Disposable cameras
- Special Items  
Infant and medical supplies: Remember supplies for family members with special requirements, such as infants, elderly, persons with disabilities and persons taking medication. Keep copies of Medical Prescriptions on hand.
- Entertainment – Games and books
- Important family documents
  - Wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
  - Passports, social security cards and immunization records
  - Bank account numbers
  - Credit card account numbers and company addresses
  - Detailed inventory of valuable household goods and important telephone numbers including photos and videos
  - Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)

*Store your kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Keep a smaller version of the supply kit in the trunk of your car. Change your stored water supply every six months so it stays fresh. Replace your stored food every six months. Re-think your kit and family needs at least once a year. Replace batteries, update clothes, ect.*

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## FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN



Setting up a family communications plan ahead of time will help make sure you and your family can connect as easily and quickly as possible.

- Designate an individual outside of the state to serve as a family point of contact. (After a disaster, it's often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area.)
- Make sure that all family members know who this person is and how to contact him/her.
- After a disaster or evacuation, all family members should make contact with the designated individual. Try choosing a certain time for everyone to check in.

### PUBLIC SHELTER INFORMATION

Shelters are operated by trained individuals and ensure that the safety, security, and basic needs of its residents are met.

#### What to bring to a shelter?

- Change of clothing, blanket, and pillow for each family member.
- Your disaster supply kit, including food, medications, comfort items, and special items for infant or elderly family members.

#### What NOT to bring?

- There are no weapons, drugs, alcohol or pets (service animals included) allowed in shelters.

### SEVERE WEATHER TERMS TO KNOW...

Natural disasters most likely to occur in Texas, particularly in low-lying areas bordering the Gulf of Mexico, include hurricanes and flooding due to heavy rains. Residents should be familiar with several terms that describe severe weather conditions:

**Storm Surge:** An abnormal rise of the sea along a shore as the result, primarily, of the winds from a storm.

**Watch:** Adverse conditions are **possible** in the specified area of the WATCH, usually within 36 hours. May be applied to thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, or hurricanes.

**Warning:** Adverse conditions are **expected** in the specified area of the WARNING, usually within 24 hours. May be applied to thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods or hurricanes.

### MEASURING HURRICANE STRENGTH

#### The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

**Category 1:** Minimal Damage. Winds 74-95 mph. Storm Surge generally 4-5 feet above normal.

**Category 2:** Moderate Damage. Winds 96-110 mph. Storm Surge generally 6-8 feet above normal.

**Category 3:** Extensive Damage. Winds 111-130 mph. Storm Surge generally 9-12 feet above normal.

**Category 4:** Extreme Damage. Winds 131-155 mph. Storm Surge generally 13-18 feet above normal.

**Category 5:** Catastrophic Damage. Winds greater than 155 mph. Storm Surge generally greater than 18 feet above normal.



### PREPARING YOUR PETS



If you are a pet owner, your family's disaster plan must include your pets. Bring pets indoors at the first sign of danger. If you must evacuate, the best thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them too.

- Identify boarding facilities, veterinarians, or hotels outside of the affected areas that can accept your pets. If you have notice of an impending disaster, call ahead for reservations.
- Pet-friendly shelters may be opened during an evacuation. This information will be available at shelter information points.
- Create a disaster readiness kit for your pet including food, water, first aid supplies, feeding dishes, leashes, carrier, blanket, ect.
- Make sure all family members are aware of these preparations.