



# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Are you ready?

# Preparing Makes Sense

- Build a kit
- Make a plan
- Be informed



# Be Informed

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- **Prepare for different emergency situations and for the unexpected**



# Natural Disasters....

A satellite image of Hurricane Ian, showing a well-defined eye and a dense, swirling cloud structure over the Caribbean Sea. The hurricane is moving towards the northeast, with its outer bands extending over the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. The surrounding ocean is a deep blue, and the landmasses of Central America and the Caribbean islands are visible in green.

Hurricanes...

Hurricane Ian, 2022



Floods...



Flooding in Eastern Kentucky 2022



# Terrorism





# Accidents...

I-95 Shut Down for 24 Hours – Jan 2022



# Build A Kit

- **Recommended items to keep in an emergency supply kit:**
  - ***Water*** – 1 gallon per person per day for at least 3 days
  - ***Food*** – at least a 3 day supply of non-perishable food
  - ***Flashlight*** with extra batteries
  - ***First aid kit***
  - Battery powered or hand-crank ***radio*** with extra batteries.



# Build A Kit (Continued)

- ❑ **Recommended items to keep in an emergency supply kit:**
  - ❑ ***Whistle*** to signal for help
  - ❑ ***Can opener*** for food
  - ❑ ***Dust mask*** to help filter contaminated air and ***plastic sheeting*** and ***duct tape*** to shelter-in-place
  - ❑ Extra ***medications*** and medical supplies
  - ❑ ***Wrench*** or ***pliers*** to turn off utilities
  - ❑ Copies of ***important family documents***

# Make A Plan

## □ **Things to include in a Family Emergency Plan**

- Contact information for family members (work, school, home)
- Out-of-town contact
- Neighborhood meeting place
- Regional meeting place
- Evacuation location





# Preparedness for Older and Disabled Citizens

# Enhance your plan

- Determine any special assistance you may need, and include in your emergency plan.
- **Create a support network** of family, friends and others who can assist you during an emergency, and share your disaster plans with them. Practice your plan with them.
  - Make sure they have an extra key to your home, know where you keep your emergency supplies and how to use lifesaving equipment or administer medicine.
- If you undergo routine treatments administered by a clinic or hospital, find out their emergency plans and work with them to identify back-up service providers.
- If you have a communication-related disability, note the best way to communicate with you.



- Get your benefits electronically
- A disaster can disrupt mail service for days or weeks. If you depend on Social Security or other regular benefits, switching to electronic payments is a simple, significant way to protect yourself financially before disaster strikes. It also eliminates the risk of stolen checks. The U.S. Department of the Treasury recommends two safer ways to get federal benefits:
  - Direct deposit to a checking or savings account. Federal benefit recipients can sign up by calling (800) 333-1795 or [sign up online](#)

# IS YOUR PET PREPARED?





**Emergencies can  
happen at any  
time. If you have  
pets, it's important  
that your  
emergency plan  
includes them**



**Make sure your pet's tags are up-to-date and securely fastened to your pet's collar.**

**Microchipping can ensure your pet gets back to you if you become separated.**

**Make sure and keep digital records and/or pictures to identify your pet**






# Make A Pet Emergency Kit

- **Pet food**
- **Bottled water**
- **Medications**
- **Veterinary records**
- **Cat litter/pan**
- **Manual can opener**
- **Food dishes**
- **First aid kit**
- **Extra leash/collar**
- **Disposable garbage bags for clean-up**
- **Crate**
- **Comfort items**



# EVACUATING



If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. You have no way of knowing how long you'll be kept out of the area, and you may not be able—or allowed—to go back for your pets. Pets left behind in a disaster can easily be injured, lost or killed.



**Evacuate early. Don't wait for a mandatory evacuation order. Some people who have waited to be evacuated by emergency officials have been told to leave their pets behind.**

**But don't refuse to evacuate because of your pets! Plan ahead to make sure you can bring your pets.**



**Identify shelters. For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets.**

**Include your local animal shelter's number in your list of emergency numbers.**

**Call your local emergency management office, animal shelter or animal control office to get advice and information.**

**Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself.**



# SHELTERING IN PLACE

**Close off or eliminate unsafe nooks and crannies where frightened cats may try to hide.**

**Move dangerous items such as tools or toxic products that have been stored in the area.**

**Bring your pets indoors as soon as local authorities say trouble is on the way.**

**If you have a room you can designate as a "safe room," put your emergency supplies in that room in advance.**

**Make sure to have at least 3 days worth of food and water for each pet (and person!)**





# When Disaster Strikes



# Sheltering In Place vs. Staying at Home

**Shelter in Place:** seek safety within the building one already occupies, rather than to evacuate the area or seek a community emergency shelter.

**Stay at home:** stay where you are and make yourself as safe as possible until the emergency passes or you are told to evacuate. Listen to your television or radio for emergency messages. Be prepared to be on your own and have additional food and water for seven to fourteen days.

# Before an Evacuation

- Plan how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate.
- Choose destinations in different directions so that you have options during an emergency.
- Be familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
- Develop a family/household communication and reunification plan

If you have a car:

Keep a full tank of gas in it if an evacuation seems likely.

Make sure you have a portable emergency kit in the car.

If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if needed.

Make arrangements with family, friends or your local government.

# During an Evacuation

- A list of open shelters can be found during an active disaster in your local area by downloading the FEMA app
- Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.
- Take your emergency supply kit.
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Call or email the out-of-state contact in your family communications plan. Tell them where you are going.
- Secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows.
- Unplug electrical equipment such as radios, televisions and small appliances. Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas.



# After an Evacuation

- Residents returning to disaster-affected areas after significant events should expect and prepare for disruptions to daily activities, and remember that returning home before storm debris is cleared is dangerous.
- Let friends and family know before you leave and when you arrive.
- Charge devices and consider getting back-up batteries in case power-outages continue.
- Bring supplies such as water and non-perishable food for the car ride.
- Avoid downed power or utility lines; they may be live with deadly voltage.
- Only use generators away from your home and NEVER run a generator inside a home or garage, or connect it to your home's electrical system.

# Communications

## Websites

- ready.gov
- [www.redcross.org/safeandwell](http://www.redcross.org/safeandwell)
- www.vaemergency.gov

## Apps

- Red Cross Emergency
- FEMA
- Missing Pets
- Life360

# Conclusion

- Maintain Your Kit and Practice Your Plan Every six months:
- Review your plan with all of your friends and family.
- Check your disaster supplies kit and refresh all expiring items (e.g., food, water, medications and batteries).
- Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills on a regular basis with your family. Make sure all your plans “work.” at least once a year:
- Change the batteries in all essential devices at the same time each year. (e.g., smoke alarms).



# Questions???





# Thank You!

Chesterfield Health District Local Health  
Emergency Coordinator