



10 Ways to Prepare Your Family for Emergencies

Salt Lake City was recently designated by Homeland Security as one of the 62 U.S. cities at high risk for a natural or man-made disaster. The following are a list of suggestions to help prepare families and neighborhoods for an emergency or disaster.

1) Have Emergency “Evacuation”/”Shelter in Place” Plans

- Identify escape routes from your home/work with safe places and gathering points. Ask the question – “What would we do if . . .” a particular set of emergency circumstances was to arise? Think about the possibilities of different events: flood, earthquake, winter storm, etc.
- Make considerations in you plan for family members with special needs and/or pets.

2) Have a Family Communications Plan

- Identify an out of state contact. After a disaster it’s often easier to make a long distance call then a local call in an impacted area. Family members could call this person and relay messages about where they are and if they are ok.

3) Have a 72 hour “Go Kit”

- Portable 72 hour kit that is easily accessible in case you need to leave your home.
- Three day supply of non perishable food items and water (a gallon per person per day). Include a flashlight, a radio, first aid supplies, prescription medications (insulin, blood pressure, allergy, etc.), a whistle, hygiene products, batteries, clothing, and blankets.

4) Equip your Car

- Keep your gas tank full and a 72 hour “Go Kit” in your car.

5) Reduce home hazards

- Mitigate hazards at home by keeping heavy objects on lower shelves, securing bookcases and large furniture to walls and installing a water heater strap.

6) Prepare for Utility Disruption

- Plan for alternate sources of power and heat in case normal utility (gas and electricity) services are interrupted.

7) Vital Records and Documents

- Store in a safe place like a safe deposit box but keep copies in your go kit.

8) Get involved in neighborhood preparation programs.

- More information can be found at http://www.slccgov.com/Departments/emergency_man/.

9) Insurance and Inventory

- Be aware of specific hazards that threaten your area and then check to see if you have adequate insurance to protect your family from financial loss.

10) Pay attention to “Alert” Notifications

- During an event listen for alert notifications and follow the instructions given. Know which radio, television stations and which web sites will have emergency information in your area.
- Sign up for emergency text message alerts from the City at www.slcalert.com.