

## **Emergency Preparedness**

The shock and sadness of Hurricane Katrina should serve as a graphic reminder of the important messages of this month's (September) designation as "National Preparedness Month"

In all circumstances, relief and recovery take time. Family and individual preparedness is the foundation for survival --- Be prepared, not scared

Here are the BIG TEN old, but not tired, suggestions:

1. Have family emergency plan
2. Know the emergency plans and procedures for school and work
3. Be a part of your neighborhood. Work as a team, know and care for those who may need special assistance
4. Keep the following items handy at home, work, at play and when "on the road":
  1. Flashlight and extra batteries
  2. Battery powered radio and extra batteries (KSL 1160 AM is our primary Emergency Alert Station.)
  3. Well stocked first-aid kit
5. Keep a small amount of cash handy (no electricity = no bank transactions and no ATMs)
6. Maintain at least 1/2 tank of gas in your car at all times (most fuel in the valley requires an electric pump for delivery - no electricity, no gas)
7. Have an emergency kit and stockpile emergency food and water (72 hours minimum --- 10 days ideal). Do not reuse milk or juice jugs for storing water – if they are not impeccably clean bacteria could grow. Buy bottles of water for storage.
8. Always have 10 to 30 day "buffer" supply of critical medicine and life-sustain medical items (consult your M.D. and pharmacist)
9. Phones are vulnerable
  1. Cell phones will probably fail
  2. Remember that cordless phones will not work without electricity
  3. Regular phones usually have enough voltage in the line to work even when the power is off
10. **The most important emergency decisions are the things you decide to do NOW prior to emergency.**

If your workplace hasn't discussed emergency preparedness, make emergency preparedness an agenda item for staff meetings.

Know where your water shut off and natural gas shut off are located. In an emergency, turn off the water and gas if it is safe to do so. If you have questions regarding the safeness of the water during an emergency, call the water department at 801.483.6700