

"Develop an Emergency Plan"

Steps to take in creating a household emergency plan include:

1. Meet with your family members and discuss the dangers of possible emergency events including fire, severe weather, hazardous spills, and terrorism.
2. Discuss how you and your family will respond to each possible emergency. Know how to contact all family members at all times. Think 24/7 and 365.
3. Discuss what to do in case of power outages or personal injuries.
4. Draw a floor plan of your home. If possible, mark two escape routes from each room.
5. Select two places to meet: a spot outside your home for an emergency such as fire, and a place away from your neighborhood in case you cannot return home (a real possibility during the day when most adults are at work and children are at school).
6. Identify an out-of-town friend or relative as your "emergency family check-in contact" for everyone to call if the family gets separated. Make sure all family members have that number. It is often easier to call of-of-town during an emergency than within the affected area.

7. Post emergency contact numbers near all telephones. Include local police, fire and health departments, poison control, your children's schools, doctors, child/senior care providers and insurance agents.
8. Make sure everyone knows how and when to call 9-1-1 or your local emergency medical services phone number.
9. Install safety features in your home such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
10. Inspect your home for potential hazards – and correct them.
11. Have your family learn basic safety and first aid measures.
12. Keep family records in a water- and fireproof safe.
13. Have emergency supplies on hand.
14. Teach adults how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at main switches. If for any reason you do turn off natural gas service to your home, call your natural gas utility to restore service. **DO NOT** attempt to restore gas service yourself.
15. PRACTICE the Plan!



Schuyler County Prepare for Emergencies

An emergency can occur quickly and without warning. Although we cannot always prevent emergencies, there are some simple things that we can do now as individuals, families and organizations to be better prepared.

"Before an Emergency Strikes"

Two actions that will help you to become better prepared are to develop an emergency plan and prepare a portable cache of emergency supplies that can be used at home or at work.

Learn about the types of emergencies or hazards that may affect your community. Also learn about your community's emergency plans that may already be in place and how you will be notified of an event. Emergencies may strike when you and your family members are away from home, so learn about plans at your workplace, school or anywhere else you and your family spends time.

Know your local radio and television stations that can provide you with up-to-date information during an emergency. Make sure you know which of your stations is part of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). These EAS stations are the primary outlets for official information on protective actions.

**Schuyler County Emergency
Management 607-535-8200**

"Emergency Supplies"

Often during an emergency, electricity, water, heat, air conditioning or telephone service may not work. Identifying and collecting emergency supplies now can save you precious time in the event you must evacuate or go without electricity, heat or water for an extended period of time. You should consider including the following items:

1. A portable battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries.
2. Flashlight(s) and plenty of extra batteries.
3. At least a 3-day supply of water (1 gallon per person per day). Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers. Replace every 6 months.
4. A 3- to 5-day supply of emergency non-perishable packaged or canned foods that do not require refrigeration and a manual can opener. Also include peanut butter, crackers, granola bars and other high-energy foods.
5. A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes for each family member.
6. Sleeping bags, bedding or blankets for each family member.

7. A first aid kit containing these supplies:
First aid manual
Assortment of sterile adhesive bandages
Sterile gauze pads
Antiseptic ointment
Soap
Latex gloves
Thermometer
Tongue depressors
Tweezers, needles
8. One week's supply of essential prescription medicines (check expiration dates).
9. Emergency heating equipment, used properly, with adequate fuel and a fire extinguisher.
10. Special items for infants, the elderly or family members with disabilities.
11. An extra pair of glasses or contact lenses and solution (be sure to check the expiration dates).
12. A list of family physicians, important medical information, and the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers.
13. Identification, credit cards, cash and photocopies of important family documents including home insurance information.
14. An extra set of car and house keys.
15. Tools such as screwdrivers, cutters, and scissors; duct tape; waterproof matches; flares; plastic storage containers; needle and thread; pen and paper; a compass; garbage bags; and regular household bleach.

"Plan for Your Pets"

If you have pets, find out whether potential shelters will allow them – many will not. In that case, you may wish to make arrangements for pets in advance of an emergency. If you have no other choice but to leave your pet at home, place your pet in a safe area inside your home with plenty of food and water. Never leave pets chained outside. Place a note outside your home listing what pets are inside, where they are located, and phone numbers of where you can be reached.

Create a survival kit for your pet and include:

- Identification collar and rabies tag.
- Carrier or cage, and leash. Any medications (be sure to check expiration dates). Newspapers and plastic trash bags for handling waste. At least a two-week supply of food, water and food bowls. Veterinary records.