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www.ready.gov

Get A Kit. Make A Plan. Be Informed.

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as making an emergency supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency. However, there are important differences among potential emergencies that will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take.

The LaPorte County Health Department recommends that all residents learn more about the potential emergencies that could happen where you live and the appropriate way to respond to them. In addition, learn about the emergency plans that have been established in your area by the state and local government.

In LaPorte County, emergencies that may occur include blackouts, chemical or biological threats, explosions, extreme heat, fires, floods, influenza pandemic, thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms and extreme cold.

When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think first about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air, and warmth.

Ready America is a federal government website that provides information on preparing kits for First Aid, unique family needs, the requirements of older Americans and people with special needs—plus our pets. The kits are intended to keep families as safe as possible for three days or more.

Some decisions will involve “do we stay or go?,” school and workplace, neighborhoods and apartments. Emergency plans should be made for your family in the event you are in a high-rise building...or if you're in a moving vehicle. Being prepared helps to keep families and individuals connected and safer.

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance:

- How will you contact one another?
- How will you get back together?
- What will you do in different situations?

Here are a few things to consider:

- Commit a weekend to updating telephone numbers, buying emergency supplies and reviewing your emergency plan with everyone. (A current phone and email list for your family and friends is a vital tool when you need to communicate with them about a birth, death, illness, travel plans, and other family-related activities. Make sure everyone on the list receives a copy...and keep it updated. Create a list of prescriptions and medical conditions for each family member. Print the communications list and the prescriptions lists and keep them with you at all times.)
- Ask your child's school for a copy of their emergency plan for you to keep at home and/or work.
- If you have pets or farm animals, remember to make a list of vets or veterinary hospitals in other cities where you might need to temporarily shelter your pet and animals if you have to evacuate the area.

Visit www.ready.gov for online emergency planning tools and specific information for military families, older Americans, people with special needs and pet owners.