

Weekly Steps for Emergency Preparedness

A budget-friendly plan to build a family disaster supply kit in 24 weeks

The Knox County Health Department's Emergency Preparedness program encourages all residents to prepare for disasters by having basic supplies on hand in order to survive for at least three days after an emergency.

Below is a checklist of basic items that every emergency supply kit should include. It is also important to review this list and consider where you live and the unique needs of your family in order to create an emergency supply kit that will meet these needs.

For additional information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health or www.ready.gov.



Week 1

- 1 gallon water*
- 1 can ready-to-eat meat* (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Large tub to hold items
- Hand-operated can opener

To Do:

- Learn about the emergencies that could happen where you live and the right way to respond to them.

Week 2

- Dry fruit or trail mix
- Permanent marker, paper and pencil

To Do:

- Make sure emergency contact numbers are easy to identify in mobile devices: I.C.E. + contact (I.C.E. = In Case of Emergency).

Week 3

- First aid kit
- Hand sanitizer

To Do:

- Date items in kit.

Week 4

- Battery/hand-crank emergency radio
- 2 flashlights with batteries
- Waterproof matches

To Do:

- Install a carbon monoxide (CO) detector and smoke alarm.
- Make a list of bank account numbers, credit card account numbers and companies, and insurance policy numbers, include in kit.

Week 5

- 1 gallon water*
- 1 can ready-to-eat meat* (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Energy bars

To Do:

- Identify family meet-up locations.

Week 6

- 1 can fruit*
- 1 box crackers
- Paper plates
- Playing cards
- Plastic container for personal items

To Do:

- Develop home evacuation plans

Week 7

- Pain reliever
- Thermometer
- Hand soap

To Do:

- Practice home evacuation plans.

Week 8

- Utility wrench (to shut off utilities)
- Fire extinguisher
- Utility knife

To Do:

- Locate and identify utility shutoffs.

Week 9

- 1 gallon water*
- 1 can soup*
- Puzzle books/games

To Do:

- Develop an emergency network among family, friends and neighbors.

Week 10

- Dry nuts
- Rain poncho

Week 11

- Laxative
- Antacid
- Anti-diarrheal
- Rubbing alcohol

Week 12

- Duct tape
- Whistle
- Tarp
- Blank DVDs to record home inventory

To Do:

- Use camcorder to record the contents of your home for insurance purposes.
- Make a copy of the recording and send it to an out-of-town friend or family member.

Continued next page

**Purchase one for each member of the household.*

Week 13

- Electrolyte replacement drink (sports drink or infant electrolyte solution)
- 1 can fruit*
- Hard candy
- Comfort/stress food (cookies, instant coffee, sweetened cereal, candy or tea bags)

To Do:

- Photocopy important documents, include in kit.

Week 14

- 1 jar peanut butter
- 1 box crackers
- 1 package eating utensils

To Do:

- Discuss with your network and neighbors what help may be needed and how best to assist each other.

Week 15

- 2 rolls toilet paper
- Bucket with tight-fitting lid
- 1 gallon regular household bleach (DO NOT USE scented, color-safe or bleaches with added cleaners)
- Medicine dropper

To Do:

- Review insurance coverage to be sure you are covered for disasters that may happen in your area.

Week 16

- Work gloves
- 50-foot rope
- Crow bar
- Cash (small bills) or traveler's checks, and coins

To Do:

- Keep a card with important health information in kit.

Week 17

- 1 gallon juice
- 1 can fruit*
- Garbage bags

To Do:

- Arrange for a friend or neighbor to help your children if you are not able to respond.

Week 18

- Paper cups
- Blanket or sleeping bag*
- Change of clothing and sturdy footwear*

To Do:

- Volunteer with a local disaster/emergency group (Red Cross, Medical Reserve Corps, CERT team).

Week 19

- Toothbrush*/toothpaste

To Do:

- Make a smaller kit for your vehicle.

Week 20

- Hammer
- Screwdriver
- Pliers
- Assorted nails and screws

To Do:

- Purchase and install an emergency escape ladder for upper story windows.

Week 21

- Electrolyte replacement drink (sports drink or infant electrolyte solution)
- 1 can vegetables*
- Comfort/stress food (cookies, instant coffee, sweetened cereal, candy or tea bags)

To Do:

- Check with child's school/day care center to find out about their disaster plans.

Week 22

- Energy bars
- 1 box crackers
- Aluminum foil

To Do:

- Take a first aid/CPR class.

Week 23

- 1 box facial tissues
- Feminine hygiene products

To Do:

- Find out about your workplace disaster plan.

Week 24

- Extra batteries for radio/flashlight
- Dust masks
- Sewing kit

To Do:

- Mark your calendar to check your emergency supply kit in six months!

***Purchase one for each member of the household.**

Special Items Your Family May Need:



Infant Items:

Formula, diapers, bottles, pacifiers; powdered milk, infant medications.

Adult/Senior Items: Prescription medications, vision care items (extra glasses/contact lenses and supplies) diabetic supplies, denture needs, hearing aid batteries.

Persons with Disabilities/Special Needs: Communication board, specialized care items (oxygen, catheters, etc.), a list of prescription medications (including dosage and physician's name) and the type and model numbers of required medical devices, portable wheelchair.

Wear a medical alert ID and register with the office of emergency services or the local fire department for assistance so needed help can be provided. If you are dependent on a dialysis machine or other life-sustaining equipment or treatment, know the location and availability of more than one facility. Make sure your support network knows your information and can operate any devices you need.

Pet Items: Your pets should always wear a collar and ID/rabies tags. Include food, water, bowls, leash/harness, crate/carrier, medical and vaccination records, sanitation needs (pet litter and litter box, newspapers, plastic bags), and a photo of you and your pet in your preparedness kit.

