The What If Times

Storey County Emergency Management

Earthquake & General Disaster Preparedness

Maintaining a KIT

If you have gone to the point of putting a preparedness kit together you have given some thought to what you personally need. Now how do we maintain that kit?

  JUST AS IMPORTANT as putting your supplies together is maintaining them so they are safe to use when needed. Here are some tips to keep your supplies ready and in good condition:

KEEP CANNED FOOD in a cool, dry place..

STORE BOXED FOOD in tightly closed plastic or metal containers to protect from pests and to extend its shelf life.

ROTATE: your food bank on a regular basis. Use the food then replace the stored food items as you use them. About six months is a good recycle or replacement date. Be sure to use them before they go bad. Write the date of purchase on the can or box so you know what to rotate.

PLACE new items at the back of the storage area and the older ones in the front.

WATER: Remember...1 gallon per day per person. Rotate your stored water also.

RETHINK: your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change. Meds, specialty foods needed for various reasons, etc.

KEEP ITEMS in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers, such as an unused trashcan, camping backpack or duffel bag. Sealable plastic tote boxes work well also.

Soooo....you are thinking you are not really worried about needing anything or there being any kind of disasters that you can't get out to get food, etc. Well that is a common thought process among the populace.
We really urge you to think about it and at least consider the basics need for that 72/96 hour window that help can't get to you.

EACH MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN PERSONAL KIT. If it's in a backpack, color code the backpacks so you always grab your own kit.
.......SO MAKE SURE IT IS IN A PLACE YOU CAN GET TO IN CASE OF ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

Build it to fit your needs.

See you soon in the next issue of the What If Times.

Your Storey County Emergency Management