







Storey County Emergency Management








i am a FIRST RESPONDER - How do I Prepare my family when I have to respond on a disaster to help others !

Whether you have a family or are single and maybe have a pet, or parents to be concerned about, how do you prepare for the time when you have to leave your family to respond to a major event or disaster that also affects you own family. Or maybe you are just out of town at the time something goes wrong at home.

HAVE YOU EVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THAT?

WELL ITS TIME YOU DO ! You have no idea how long you might be gone.

-  So...basic preparedness is still important but there are some other factors to consider. It doesn't have to be a big disaster...just a small home disaster.
-  **Discuss with your family** (or your dog or cat) the fact that you might have to go to work (career or volunteer) to assist in disaster responses while even your own home may be affected.
-  Do you have a **written plan** that they can review regarding some of the following?
-  Do you have **rendezvous points** established to meet up if you were initially separated?
-  Does your family know how to **turn off the gas/propane or power**? Do they know how to reset a circuit breaker?
-  Do they know how to **turn off the water** in the house (suppose it freezes and breaks)? Do they know where the water meter is for the house?

-  Do they have the **right tools** to do that with easily available to them?
Hammers, pliers, screwdrivers, wire cutters, water key
-  Do they know where **emergency lighting** is located in the garage and how to use it? Candles, coal oil lamps, batteries, flashlights
-  Do they have a listing of **emergency numbers** for them to call for assistance when you are gone at work, or on an out of district fire assignment?
Not just mom, dad or grandparents...how about friends that might be close enough to help but not in the area affected by an event.
What about the Public Works number, gas company, water company electric company, etc.
-  Have you set up an **emergency supply food** for them to tap into and bottled **water** to drink. The kids can be kept happy with some chips or an energy bar.
-  Have you prearranged for someone that can be called to **tend to your pets** (*dog, cat, horse, rats, snakes, or whatever other weird pet you might have*) when you can't return home due to your work.
-  This sounds odd but its real.....can your family **function without their cell phone?**
OR do they panic without it or their Ipad. *This is actually becoming a problem in society today. Do you have landlines?? Portable Cell charging units? How about a solar charging unit?*
-  **Here is a personal story**...I can think of any number of times over my past 43 years involved with the VFD or my career in law enforcement, when I have been called out, was at a conference, at work, gone to training class, out of town on business, held over, or on overtime and **something happens at home**. The pipes freeze, power is out for two days, water shortage due to broken town water pipes, run out of propane, etc.. I guarantee you it **USUALLY HAPPENS WHEN YOU ARE NOT HOME TO TAKE CHARGE OF THINGS**.been there experienced that ! **SO**..... you better be sure your wife and family are trained, informed, and capable of taking charge and getting things done. Whether you are a new career/volunteer person or been around some years, **YOU ARE ADVISED TO START THINKING ABOUT SOME OF THE ABOVE POINTS.**

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.
..... **MAKE SURE IT IS IN A PLACE YOU CAN GET TO IN CASE OF NATURAL OR MAN MADE DISASTER.....OR PERSONALIZED DISASTER AT HOME.**

BE A PREPARED FIRST RESPONDER.....its coming !