Be Informed and Get Involved

Slide 1

Be Informed

Now that you have your disaster supplies kit and have developed an emergency plan, become more informed about disasters.

Slide 2

Warning Systems
- Emergency Alert System
- Wireless Alert System
- Phone apps
- Sirens
- Phone calls
- Texts
- Social media
- NOAA Weather Radio

Learn what methods your local officials use to warn the community if there’s a disaster. The Emergency Alert System is a national public warning system that requires TV and radio to allow state and local authorities to deliver important emergency information to specific areas. Wireless Emergency Alerts allow cell-phone customers to receive geographically targeted, text-like messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area. Several mobile apps are available that provide warnings. You might hear a special siren or get a telephone call or receive a text message or see a social media post, or emergency workers may go door to door. All homes should have a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio since most warnings come directly from NOAA.

Slide 3

Hazards in Your Area

If you’ve lived in an area for any length of time, you already may know the hazards that threaten your family and property. If you’re new to an area, find out what kinds of disasters, both natural and manmade, are most likely to occur and how you will be notified.

Insert appropriate slides from Possible Disasters here.

Slide 4

Get Involved

Now that you’re more informed of hazards in your area, how can you help in your community?
You can help prepare your community for disasters. Take part in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Through disaster response, faith-based and service organizations, you may be able to participate in community emergency exercises, share preparedness ideas, help communities and individuals prepare for disasters, and financially support preparedness and recovery work. Volunteers are always welcome! Your area may have a Voluntary or Community Organizations Active in Disasters group. Contact your local emergency manager to learn more about ways to get involved.

Help other individuals. Seniors and those with disabilities or other special needs may require help getting the supplies they need for their disaster kits. Extra hearing aid batteries, oxygen, medications, glasses, copies of medical cards and a large whistle or bell to catch attention may be additional items for some people. Help others develop a list of individuals and doctors to contact if the need arises.

Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives and cost millions of dollars every year. Sometimes they are expected, but many times they are not. Each disaster has lasting effects on both people and property. Yet fewer than 40% of American families have any kind of preparedness program. You have a responsibility to yourself, your family and your community to be prepared. Now that you’ve gotten a kit, made a plan and become informed, when you’re asked “Are You Ready?” now you can confidently say “Yes.”