



Disaster Preparedness Event –Children’s Issues

Children’s fears can stem from their imaginations, and adults should take these feeling seriously. Words and actions can provide reassurance to a child who feels afraid. When talking to your child, be sure to present a realistic picture that is both honest and manageable. Find time to talk with your child. This will let your child know that it is OK to ask questions and to express their concerns.

Adults can be a role model for their children. Changes in living conditions can be extremely stressful for children. They will take cues of how to handle situations from their parents. Modeling calms behaviors will be important during chaotic times. Also encouraging children to help reassures children. Children cope better when they feel they are helping their family.

Monitor your conversations with other adults when children are around. Children may misinterpret what they hear and can be frightened unnecessarily about something they do not understand. Reassure children that they are safe and that they are loved.

ASSEMBLE A KIT FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Some suggested items:

- A few favorite books, crayons and paper
- Favorite blanket, pillow
- Puzzles, a board game, deck of cards
- Pictures of family and pets
- Two favorite small toys, such as a doll
Action figure, stuffed animal
- Other special items that will
comfort your child

ADVICE FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

It is important to communicate to children that their family is strong. Children need to be assured by their parents that the family is safe. Adolescents, in particular, can be hard hit by this type of disaster. Parent may watch for signs such as sleep disturbances, fatigue, lack of pleasure in activities previously enjoyed.

Overexposure to the media can be traumatizing. It is best not to let children or adolescents repeatedly view footage of traumatic events. Children and adolescents should not view these events alone. Adults need to help children understand the emergency or disaster.

For more information, check the American Academy of Pediatrics webpage at www.aap.org

***Information received from
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***



Disaster Preparedness Event –Emergency Supplies

There are six basics you should stock in your home: water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies. Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Mess kits, or paper plates, cups, utensils	Matches in a waterproof container
Emergency preparedness manual	Aluminum foil
Battery-operated radio & batteries	Plastic storage containers
Flashlight and extra batteries	Signal flare
Cash or traveler’s checks	Paper, pencil
Non-electric can opener, utility knife	Needles, thread
Fire extinguisher; small canister, ABC type	Medicine dropper
Tube tent	Shut-off wrench for household utilities
Pliers	Whistle
Tape	Plastic sheeting
Map of area & listing of local shelters	

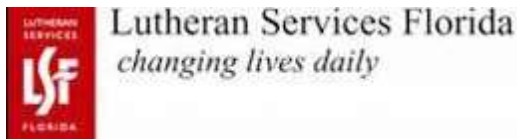
SANITATION

Toilet paper, towelettes	Personal hygiene items
Soap, liquid detergent	Plastic bucket with tight lid
Feminine supplies	Disinfectant
Household chlorine bleach	
Plastic garbage bags, ties (for personal sanitation uses)	

CLOTHING AND BEDDING

Include at least one complete change of clothing and foot-ware per person	
Sturdy shoes or work boots	Blankets or sleeping bags
Hat and gloves	Extra socks and underwear
Rain gear	Sunglasses

***Information received from
Family Hurricane Preparedness Manual***





Disaster Preparedness Event –Evacuation

In your Family Plan for Disasters and Emergencies, map out your route to shelters or to locations out of the area. Be familiar with alternate routes. Remember local meeting places, often called “rally points,” and an out-of-town contact in case family members are separated.

If you have children in schools, familiarize yourself with their emergency plans and where students are to be sent if an evacuation is announced.

STEPS TO FOLLOW:

- Monitor news media for instructions about evacuation. Know the difference between a watch and a warning.
- Check on the elderly who may need your assistance
- If you don’t have a vehicle, plan another way to leave
- Keep your vehicle filled with at least a half tank of gas at all times. Never store additional gasoline in your home, vehicle or shed.
- If told to evacuate, do so quickly
- Bring your Disaster Supply Kit.
- Enact your Pet Safety Plan
- Leave a note in a sealed envelope marked “emergency information” in an obvious location. Include when you left, where you are going, and contact numbers.
- Lock and secure your house.
- Follow evacuation route instructions. Use your plan. Do not get on the road without a place to go.

IF TIME ALLOWS:

- Secure your home before leaving. Board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside.
- Call or email your out-of-area contact about your plans
- If you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving. Be familiar with the location of shut-off valves before a disaster. If you turn off the gas, a professional must turn it back on. Do not attempt to do this yourself.

***Information received from
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***



Disaster Preparedness Event –

For Families with Special Needs

ADVICE FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Families with special needs must carefully assess their options. They should ask themselves the following questions:

- Can we manage the entire needs of our family for three days with little or no outside assistance?
- Can we meet any crisis or emergency on our own for that period of time?
- Can we make decisions concerning our special needs without consultation for help for three days?
- Do we have the supplies and equipment to meet our special needs for three days?

If the answer is “no” to any of the above questions, families must seriously consider evacuation from their homes in the event of a disaster. Advance preparation should include how to evacuate and where to relocate. Many areas have “special needs shelter” that are equipped with medical staff and specialized equipment. In your preparation, check the shelters in your areas and become familiar with their locations, procedures and policies concerning how many people are allowed to accompany the family member with special needs.

People who require special assistance in evacuating should register with their local county emergency management office.

SUPPLIES TO CONSIDER FOR SPECIAL NEEDS INDIVIDUALS

Families with special needs must take stock of their ability to manage and must plan for extra supplies in their disaster kit.

- For respirators, other electric-dependent medical equipment or oxygen- make prior arrangements with your physician or check with your oxygen supplier about emergency plans
- Two week stock of disposable supplies such as dressings, nasal cannulas, suction catheters, etc.
- Two week supply of medication, prescriptions and non-prescriptions
- Electrical backup for medical equipment
- Copies of prescriptions for medical equipment, supplies and medications. Ask your physician or pharmacist about proper storing of prescription medications

***Information received from
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***



Disaster Preparedness Event –First Aid Kit

There are six basics you should stock in your home: water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies. Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container. Keep ready a three-day supply of each person's vital medications to include in the kit.

FIRST AID KIT

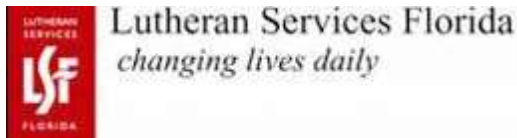
Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes	Antiseptic
2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)	Thermometer
4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)	Tongue blades (2)
Hypoallergenic adhesive tape	Tube of petroleum jelly
Triangular bandages (3)	Assorted sizes of safety pins
2-inch sterile roller bandages (3rolls)	Cleansing agent/soap
3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)	Sunscreen
Scissors	Tweezers
Needle	Moistened towelettes

NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever	Laxative
Anti-diarrhea medication	Activated charcoal
Antacid (for stomach upset)	Antibiotic ointment

Contact your local American Red Cross chapter to obtain a basic first aid manual. For more information on creating a First Aid Kit visit the Red Cross online at www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/workkit.html

***Information received from
Family Hurricane Preparedness Manual***





Disaster Preparedness Event –Disaster Contact Informatio

Government and Voluntary Agencies:

Family, friends and neighbors may find the following list of telephone numbers helpful:

<i>FEMA Registration</i>	800-621-3362 or 800-621-FEMA
(This is the first step for disaster assistance)	
<i>America's Second Harvest</i>	800-771-2303
<i>American Red Cross Chapter</i>	800-773-2767
(First responders for water & temporary financial assistance)	
<i>Elder Helpline (Information and referral)</i>	800-963-5337
Hillsborough County	800-336-2226
Pasco County	800-861-8111
Citrus County	800-262-2243
Pinellas County	727-217-8111

Information needed when contacting FEMA:

FEMA Registration 800-621-3362 or 800-621-FEMA

(This is the first step for disaster assistance)

When you call the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 800 number, the actual application process will begin. Callers will be advised to have paper and pen available for taking notes and have this information available:

- Social Security Number
- The date the damage occurred
- Pre-disaster and current temporary address, zip code and county
- Telephone number where you can be contacted
- Home Insurance information
- Total household annual income
- A routing and account number from your bank
(only needed if you want to have disaster assistance funds transferred directly into your bank account)
- A description of your losses that were caused by the disaster

Applicants will be given a seven-digit registration number. This number and the Social Security number become the means of identification when calling in to report information or the status of your case. An inspector will contact you to set up and appointment to review your disaster assistance program and other help available for your area.

***Information received from
Department of Elder Affairs
State of Florida***



Disaster Preparedness Event –Pet Safety

Preparation:

Since animals are not allowed in shelters during a disaster, you must plan ahead. In case you may need to evacuate, contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check their policies on accepting pets and any restrictions on size and species. Often hotels waive their 'no pet' policies in an emergency.

You may ask boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals during a disaster. You may contact friends or others outside your area whether they could shelter your animals. Remember leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured, lost or killed.

There are two evacuation shelters that take in pets within our area. They are:

Sickles High School, 7950 Gunn Highway, Tampa

Burnett Middle School, 1010 N. Kingsway Rd, Seffner

Assemble a Portable Pet Disaster Supply Kit:

Keep items in an accessible place and store them in a sturdy waterproof container that can be easily carried. Your pet disaster supply kit should include:

- medications
- registration records, microchip information
- first aid kit
- sturdy leashes or carrier
- water for 3-5 days
- name of veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pet
- pet beds and toys, if easily transportable
- current photos of pets and pet with family
- for cats – a cat litter/pan
- information on medical condition
- food for 3-5 days

Further information can be accessed at:

Pet Preparedness at www.floridadisaster.org

American Veterinary Medical Association at www.avma.org

Humane Society of the United States at www.hsus.org

***Information received from
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
And the Humane Society***



***Disaster Preparedness Event –
Protect yourself from Home Repair Fraud***

During the previous hurricane seasons, numerous individuals from across the Gulf Coast have fell victim to home repair fraud. The first step is to research the contractor by contacting your local building department to determine the following:

- If the contractor has a current and valid license, liability and worker's compensation insurance and is bonded.
- Determine licensing requirements
- Required permits for work contracted and schedule of inspections
- If any complaints have been filed against the contractor, and
- If any other requirements or legal notices pertain to the job.

When you have agreed to have the work completed by a contractor always require a written contract, no matter how small the job. The contract should include all of the following items:

- Contractor's name
- Business name, address, phone number and fax number
- License number and type
- Insurance information
- Payment and inspection schedule
- Job plans and specifications
- Specific types and grades of materials
- Itemized total costs
- Warranties on materials and workmanship
- Start and completion dates, and
- Contractor's commitment to get all permits

Additional Tips:

- Ask friends and family for referrals, and ask contractors for customer references.
- Never pay cash for a job. Paying by check or money order provides a written record
- Get written estimates that include a description of the job and itemized costs.
- Never accept an offer to take you to the bank to withdraw money for any reason.
- Never agree to get your own permits.
- An unlicensed "Handyman" cannot legally perform any work valued at more than \$1,000 for the entire job.

***Information received from
Department of Elder Affairs
State of Florida***