

## **Prediction or Preparedness**

Earthquakes, flash floods, tornadoes, or winter storms are just some examples of unpredictable disasters.

Where will you or your family be when disaster strikes? At work, school, shopping or in the car? How will you find each other or know your children are safe?

Disasters occur suddenly, without warning and can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or be confined to your home.

While very few people have the ability to predict disasters, everyone has the ability to prepare for them. Knowing what to do is your best protection. Families can and do cope with disasters by preparing in advance and working together as a team.

Would you be prepared if the basic services, such as water, gas, electricity or telephones were cut off? Local officials and disaster workers would be on scene after a disaster, but it would be impossible to help everyone immediately. Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days.

## **Emergency Supplies Checklist**

### **Essentials**

Water – 1 gallon per person per day (minimum supply for 3 days)

First Aid Kit – freshly stocked

Food – canned, non-perishable

Can Opener (non-electric)

Blankets and sleeping bags

Portable radio

Flashlights

Fresh batteries for radio and flashlights

Baby formula, diapers, infant supplies

Pet food

Fire extinguisher

Extra eyeglasses

Essential medications

Cash and change

## **Creating a Disaster Plan**

Discuss with your family the types of disasters most likely to happen. Together determine what to do in each case.

Pick two places to meet:

right outside your home in case of an emergency like a fire.

outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.

Ask an out-of-state friend to be your "family contact". After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know the contact's phone number.

Discuss what to do in an evacuation. Plan how to take care of your pets.

### **Check for Home Hazards**

Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a home hazard. Inspect your home once a year and fix potential hazards.

Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

## **If disaster strikes...**

Remember to remain calm and patient.  
Put your family plan into action.

Check for injuries giving first aid if needed and getting help for those seriously injured.

Listen to your battery powered radio for instructions. Evacuate if advised to do so.

Check for damage in your home. Look for fires, fire hazards or other household hazards. Sniff for gas leaks starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows and get everyone outside quickly.

Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline and other flammable liquids immediately.

### **Remember to:**

Confine or secure your pets.

Call your family contact but do not use the telephone again unless it is a life-threatening emergency.

Check on your neighbors, especially elderly or disabled persons.

## **EMERGENCY RESOURCES**

**San Mateo Area Office of  
Emergency Services:  
650-363-4790**

**Federal Emergency Management  
Association:  
1-800-480-4532**

**American Red Cross: To be  
announced by local media at time  
of the disaster**

**Salvation Army:  
1-800-433-7453**

**Pacific Gas and Electric 24 hour  
Emergency:  
1-800-743-5000**

**Pacific Bell:  
1-800-310-2355**

**CITY OF BRISBANE:  
Fire Department: 415-657-4300  
Police Department: 415-508-2181  
City Hall: 415-508-2100  
Parks and Recreation:  
415-508-2142  
Building Department:  
415-508-2120  
Public Works Department:  
415-508-2130  
Finance/Water Department:  
415-508-2150**

## **CITY OF BRISBANE**

Community Emergency Volunteers



**DO YOU HAVE  
A  
FAMILY  
DISASTER  
PLAN?**