

## Houston County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) Pamphlet 1 PREPARING YOUR FAMILY FOR EMERGENCIES

**Part One: Have a Kit.** Make an emergency kit you can use at home or put in your vehicle if you must evacuate. *Go buy this stuff now*, not when a storm is on the way:

1. **Water:** one gallon per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
2. **Non-perishable Food:** at least a three-day supply
3. **Manual can opener** if emergency kit includes canned food or water
4. **Radio:** Battery-powered or hand cranked AM/FM radio with extra batteries
5. **NOAA Weather Radio:** with tone alert and extra batteries. Consider purchase of a hand-cranked weather radio with a cell-phone charging USB port.
6. **Flashlight** with extra batteries.
7. **Candles and firewood:** for extended electrical blackouts
8. **Matches,** preferably water proof or in waterproof container.
9. **First Aid kit.** Even small cuts and abrasions can cause trouble in a disaster situation.
10. **Whistle or Air Horn:** to signal for help
11. **Filter mask:** or cotton t-shirt to help filter the air
12. **Moist towelettes, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, garbage bags and plastic ties:** for personal hygiene
13. **Wrench or pliers:** to turn off utilities. Learn how from your utility providers
14. **Leatherman ® or other pliers-knife combo tool** for miscellaneous use
15. **Plastic sheeting and duct tape** to shelter at home
16. **Important Family Documents:** in waterproof container
17. **Prescription drugs:** 3-7 day supply for each family member requiring them
18. **Infant** formula and diapers: 3-7 day supply
19. **Clothes:** 3-day supply
20. **Rain gear and warm clothes** as required by season

**Part Two: Have a Plan.** A smoke detector can give early warning of a house fire while a weather radio gives early warning of a weather emergency.

1. **Fire Emergency.** Each family member knows how to get out of the house and where to meet up.
2. **In-Town Rendezvous:** Have a place in town where your family will meet if communications are out. This could be your home but could also be your business or a child's school.
3. **Out-of-Town Contact:** Have an out-of-town friend or relative with which all family members will communicate via phone or e-mail if local communications are out. Out-of-town numbers often work even when in-town numbers can't be reached.
4. **Contact Information:** Insure all family members, especially young children in school, have your in-town and out-of-town contact information and rendezvous information *on their person*.
5. **Destination:** Decide on an out-of-town destination such as a cousin's house outside Georgia should evacuation be ordered. Inform those at the destination of your plans.
6. **When you evacuate,** turn off or unplug all electrical devices in your home *even if the power is out*.
7. **Meet as a family now and insure each member knows the plan.** Do this regularly. Practice with tools, keep the weather radio alert active and rotate water and stored food regularly (at least annually)

### Part Three: Be Prepared

1. Write down and discuss your plan.
2. Quiz your kids so they know what to do when scared and separated from you.
3. Keep at least one family vehicle with half a tank of gas or more.
4. Keep at least \$50.00 cash at home if you can.
5. For an approaching storm secure tie down or remove outside items and fill bathtubs to supply water for flushing toilets.