

Dear resident,

September is “Preparedness Month” a month in which emergency preparedness is emphasized. Nonetheless, preparation for emergencies needs to be a year round effort to us all.

The question we all must answer is a simple one yet perhaps a little complicated. Am I, is my family; are we ready for an emergency?

Although there are many templates; these templates are just recommendations and each of us must adjust them to our needs, our household; the specific changing needs we might be facing.

Visiting the websites of the American Red Cross [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) and the Department of Homeland Security (Ready.gov) [www.ready.gov/america.getakit](http://www.ready.gov/america.getakit) can give you the “springboard” for your specific plans. Now don’t wait for the last minute to visit these websites. Take time before an emergency to visit, become acquainted with the sites and make the preparations that will meet your needs.

Perhaps you don’t have access to the internet and/or a computer; no problem. Here are some recommendations that may help you as you tailor them to your needs.

**Evacuation Backpack:** Flashlight with fresh batteries (LED’S last longer) or hand crank; Emergency radio, fresh batteries and/or hand cranked, Extra batteries, Water, water bottle with filtering cartridge, water bottles, Sealable plastic bag with list of prescriptions, prescriptions and non- prescription medicines, First aid kit, Dry and canned food, Hand crank can opener, Sealable plastic container with copies of important papers such as wills, vehicle titles, insurance, DD214 and/or as needed, Germicidal based wipes for general cleaning, Reusable plates, heat resistant pot, cups, utensils, Whistle, Change of clothes, Water proof shoes/boots, socks and poncho, Foldable paper map, Compass.



**Auto/Office:** Flashlight with fresh batteries (LED’s last longer) or hand crank, Kitty litter and/or bag of sand for vehicle traction, Water, water bottles, Small shovel, Ice scrapper, First aid kit, Dry food, Emergency foil thermal blanket, Jumper cables, Vehicle fluids, Electronic device charger, Cigarette lighter DC to A/C power converter, Fuse or electronic road flares, triangles, Office/vehicle **Evacuation bag.**

**Pets:** Water/Food, Travel bowls for food and water, Leash, Kennel, Toys as per pet, Sealable bag for prescriptions and medications, Pet first aid kit, Plastic bags and gloves for pet clean up.

**At Home Housekeeping:** Manual tool kit and if possible battery operated power tools, Chain saw, Fuel and bar oil for chain saw, hand bow saw with razor teeth, clippers for the removal of downed trees, Earth friendly ice melting compound, Leather, water, proof, thermal work gloves, Large contractor strength plastic bags, Large waterproof tarp, Battery operated Carbon Monoxide and Smoke and Fire Detectors.

