

GENERAL PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION

Emergency Planning

Essential services may be interrupted following an emergency and local disaster relief and emergency responders may not be able to reach you immediately. Equipping yourself with the knowledge and tools to prepare and protect yourself and your family is essential.

Step One: Have a Plan

The first step to take to prepare for emergencies is to develop a household disaster plan.

- Know and understand the impact of natural disasters that could occur in your community. Know whether hazardous materials are produced, stored or transported near your area. Learn about possible consequences of deliberate acts of terror. Prepare for each potential emergency and how you would respond.
- Talk with employers and school officials about their emergency response plans and understand how those plans impact your family plan.
- Discuss potential emergencies with all members of your household, and determine how to respond to each. Make sure you agree on what you would need to do in an evacuation scenario.
- Make a plan to stay in contact with family members in the event you are separated. Identify and agree on two meeting places:
 - the first should be near your home—in case of fire, perhaps a tree or a telephone pole
 - the second should be away from your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.
- Choose a friend or relative who lives out of the area for household members to call to say they are okay and make sure they know your plan.
- Draw a floor plan of your home, identifying two escape routes from each room. Use the form on the following page.
- Keep emergency telephone numbers by all telephones and teach children how and when to call 9-1-1.
- Ensure that everyone in your household knows how and when to shut off water, gas and electricity at the main switches
- Ensure that at least one member of your family has taken a CPR/first aid class. Local American Red Cross chapters can train you in these lifesaving skills. Official certification by the American Red Cross provides “good Samaritan” law protection for those giving first aid.
- Reduce the economic impact of disaster on your property and your household’s health and financial well-being:
 - Review property insurance to be policies are current and meet your needs (type of coverage—including Renter’s Insurance, amount of coverage, and hazard covered—flood, fire and theft)
 - Review life insurance policies and consider saving money in an “emergency” savings account that could be used in any crisis. Keep a small amount of cash or traveler’s checks at home in a safe place where you can quickly gain access in case of an evacuation.
 - Ensure that health insurance policies are current and meet the needs of your household.
- Consider ways to help neighbors who may need special assistance, such as the elderly or disabled.
- Make sure your disaster plan includes arrangements for your pets, since they are not allowed in emergency shelters. Service animals are allowed.

Step Two: Assemble Make a Kit

You may need to survive on your own for three days or more and use your own water, food and emergency supplies

Assembling the supplies you might need following a disaster is an important part of your disaster plan. You should prepare emergency supplies for the following situations:

- A disaster supply kit with essential food, water, and supplies—this kit should be kept in a designated place and be ready to “grab and go” in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all household members know where the kit is kept.
- Have a disaster supply kit at work. This should be in one container, ready to “grab and go” in case you have to evacuate the building.
- Keep a car kit of emergency supplies, including food and water, stored in your car at all times. This kit would also include flares, jumper cables and seasonal supplies.

See the “Emergency Supply Kit Checklist” section for details on assembling your kits.

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Step Three: Get Involved

The City of Bridgeport Emergency Operations Center is recruiting volunteers locally to help with prevention, preparedness, response and recovery operations.

Prevention:

Helping prepare your home and business by providing tips that will help safeguard the locations against all types of natural and man-made hazards.

Preparedness:

Helping spread the word about being prepared. Whether its at home or at your place of work everyone needs to be prepared.

Response:

Trained volunteers are always needed to help so that first responders can concentrate on the most life safety response operations. Areas that volunteers can assist by getting trained are:

- Shelter and Mass Care Operations
 - Shelter Staffing/Management
 - Shelter Feeding
 - Animal Care
 - Children & Youth Activities
 - Seniors & Specific Needs Care
- Medical Reserve Corps
 - Licensed Medical Care and Pharmaceutical providers can assist at the Mass Vaccination Sites.
 - Mass Vaccination Site general services and duties such as greeters/translators, registration processing, traffic control, etc.
- Community Emergency & Disaster Response Teams
 - Damage Assessment
 - Traffic Control
 - Debris Removal Assistance
 - Recovery Supplies (water, ice, tarps, meals-ready-to-eat) Distribution Points Workers:
 - Fork Lift Operators
 - Inventory/Stock Coordinators
 - Supply Coordinators
 - Distribution Workers

- Emergency Operations Center
 - Call Takers
 - Feeding Service Providers
 - Message Runners
 - General Office Duties

Ready Bridgeport wants to recruit 1% of our population to become trained volunteers so that our community will have the needed volunteer services to respond to all types of hazards that may impact our community.

Step Four: Stay Informed

There are many ways to stay informed:

Television, Radio & Newspaper: The Bridgeport EOC will disseminate emergency instructions and tips via all of our local media outlets.

Reverse 911 Alerting: The Bridgeport EOC will disseminate emergency instructions via a Reverse 911 Community alerting system that will call your phone with importing instructions. In ensuring you are contact please register with the Bridgeport EOC.

Social Networking: The Bridgeport EOC will keep in contact with the community via social networking sites such as facebook, twitter, myspace, etc; with important preparedness tips, emergency instructional videos, communiuty alerts, etc. So please make sure you register with the Bridgeport EOC.

To learn more about how to prepare yourself, family and business contact the Bridgeport Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security at 203.579.3822 or the City of Bridgeport at 203.576.1311.