

**Bringing Workplace Safety & Health Home:** During National Preparedness Month this September, Home Safety Council Offers Advice and Resources to Help Families Prepare for Emergencies.

Tornados, hurricanes, wildfire, earthquakes, flooding, fires and disasters often happen unexpectedly, leaving families no time to prepare to evacuate or seek shelter in their home. In support of National Preparedness Month, the Home Safety Council (HSC) is urging families to make a communications plan and assemble readiness kits now, in order to be ready for the unexpected later.

A recent HSC survey found that while more than half of survey respondents (58 percent) have experienced a disaster first-hand, very few have taken action to prepare for another emergency. In fact, only 25 percent of those polled have assembled basic emergency supplies such as water, food and clothing.

"When a disaster occurs, it's already too late to make an emergency plan," said Meri-K Appy, president of the Home Safety Council. "The time to get ready is now before disaster strikes. By investing a few minutes today, families will have the knowledge, supplies and the plan needed to safely and securely make it through any type of emergency situation."

Develop a Family Communications Plan:

HSC encourages families to talk about the kinds of disasters that can occur in their area and make a plan to stay safe if a disaster should arise. Family communication plans should include:

- \* Meeting places in and out of town
- \* Phone numbers of in-town contacts
- \* An address and phone number of someone out of town
- \* A card for each family member including this information

Put Together a "Ready-to-Go Kit":

HSC encourages families to keep the following items in a backpack, tote or duffle bag to be ready if an emergency situation forces them to leave home:

- \* One gallon of water per person
- \* A small amount of cash
- \* Non-refrigerated food
- \* A manual can opener
- \* Plastic/paper plates, cups and utensils
- \* Flashlight and extra batteries
- \* Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- \* Change of clothes
- \* Card with your contact information and the number of someone out of state to call
- \* Pet food and supplies for one or more days; and leash or carrier
- \* Small first-aid kit
- \* Personal hygiene items, soap and hand sanitizer

"Ready-to-Stay Kit":

It is equally important for families to have extra supplies on-hand in the event an emergency situation forces them to remain in the home for several days. A "Ready-to-Stay Kit" contains all of the items in the "Ready-to-Go" Kit plus a few others. Prepare a "Ready-to-Stay Kit" with the following additional items stored in a plastic tub or other large, sturdy container:

- \* Three gallons of water for each family member
- \* Canned food and snacks for at least three days
- \* Toilet paper
- \* Non-scented bleach
- \* Blankets
- \* Books and games
- \* Paper and pencils

For more information to help your family prepare for disaster, visit the Home Safety Council's new interactive safety destination @ [MySafeHome.org](http://MySafeHome.org).