

THE BIG BOOSTER

THE OFFICIAL FORT WORTH FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

September 2021- **SPECIAL EDITION**

National Preparedness Month

Prepare to Protect



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National Preparedness Month

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In just the past two years, Fort Worth residents have lived through severe weather with baseball sized hail, large wildfires, flash flooding, a tragic 135 car pile-up, a winter weather storm that was accompanied by an electrical grid failure, the loss of water and a thaw that caused structural damage across the city. All of these events occurred while our residents were still (and continue to be) in the middle of a global pandemic.

How do you and your family prepare for any of these emergencies? Where do you begin?

Your Fort Worth Fire Department is truly looking forward to taking the month of September to recognize "National Preparedness Month" with our residents.

We may not be able to predict every disaster or emergency we could experience. But we have the opportunity **now** to be proactive in being prepared.

We "prepare to protect" as *preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love*. And your Fort Worth Fire Department is here to help you and your family.

Stay safe,
Chief Davis





National Preparedness Month 2021

Each September, National Preparedness Month encourages and reminds Americans to be prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. The dedication of the entire month to preparedness serves as a reminder that disasters and emergencies can and will happen at any time.

The theme for 2021 is "Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love."

Each week in September focuses on a different aspect of preparedness for individuals, families and communities.

Week 1: Make a Plan

September 1st through 4th

Talk to your friends and family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster.

The primary disasters that North Texas residents will experience are tornadoes, winter storms, flooding and wildfires. Knowing these hazards allows for family and friends to plan ahead. The supplies needed in a supply kit are different for a winter storm event and a tornado event. But each hazard must be discussed. Have an evacuation route. Know where important documents are stored and understand your insurance coverage. And create a communication plan: *if cell phones do not work, how will you get in touch with one another? Do you have a central point of contact?* Ask the tough questions so when disaster strikes there is a plan in place to make it just a bit easier.

"Prepare to Protect"

Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love.



Emergency Supply Kit Checklist



Be sure to have enough supplies for 72 hours for each person in your home!

<input type="checkbox"/>	Water (3 gallons) for each person
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-perishable food
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flashlight and extra batteries
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fully stocked first aid kit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete changes of clothing & footwear
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bedding & blankets
<input type="checkbox"/>	Important family documents (copies)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pet supplies (if necessary)
<input type="checkbox"/>	A whistle to signal for help
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supplies for ALL weather events (hot & cold temps)

Week 2: Build a Kit

September 5th through 11th

Gather supplies that will last for several days after a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don't forget to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have in case you have to evacuate quickly.

There are standard supplies that must go into every emergency supply kit (see graphic) but there are also supplies that are unique to your family and the disaster you may be facing. If it is summer time, you want to make sure that you have items that will keep you cool while your winter supply kit should include items such as ice scrapers and hand warmers. Your kit is unique to you, so think ahead. Always plan for enough supplies to last for 72 hours. This includes medication, durable medical equipment (oxygen tanks), foods that meet your dietary restrictions, etc.. Think about items you would need for your pets and children too. And have those items stocked and ready at all times.

Week 3: Prepare for Disasters

September 12th through 18th

Limit the impacts that disasters have on you and your family. Know the risk of disasters in your area and check your insurance coverage. Learn how to make your home stronger in the face of storms and other common hazards and act fast if you receive a local warning or alert.

NOAA Weather Radios, local tv/radio, internet/social media, weather apps and emergency alert notifications are five ways to receive warnings and alerts. Not every method is perfect and the Outdoor Warning Sirens are the absolute last resort. They are sounded when the emergency (tornado, hail, strong winds) is already happening. Be sure to have multiple ways to receive warnings to give you enough notice to seek shelter.

FortWorthTexasAlerts.Gov

There are three ways to receive a FortWorthTexasAlerts.gov from the Fort Worth Fire Department Office of Emergency Management. You can choose all options or whichever is most convenient for you.



TEXT MESSAGE

When a FortWorthTexasAlerts.gov alert is sent out you can receive just a text on your phone to alert you of the notification.



PHONE CALL

You can opt to also receive a phone call but this is not a requirement. When you register or update your registration add or remove this option.



EMAIL

You can also receive an email with details about the alert. Your information will not be shared outside of FortWorthTexasAlerts.gov.

***Please be sure when you sign up for alerts to fully register and not sign up as a "guest." This enables you to edit your account as needed.*

WWW.FORTWORTHTEXASALERTS.GOV

The City of Fort Worth, through the Fire Department's Office of Emergency Management, has a **free** alert system called "Fort Worth Texas Alerts." *This system replaced the NIXLE system.* You can register for texts, phone calls, email or a combination of all three at by visiting **this site** to sign up today!



Week 4: Teach Youth About Preparedness

September 19th through 24th

Talk to your kids about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case you are separated. Reassure them by providing information about how they can get involved.





In the age of cell phones, memorizing phone numbers is a lost habit. But in the case of an emergency, sometimes a cell phone isn't available. Do your kids know that number? Do your kids know your address? Do your kids know your first and last names should you be separated? Do your kids know the best way to leave your home if there was a fire? And do they know where the "safe place" in your home is located? These questions can be overwhelming to think about all at once. But preparing your children for emergencies can be made into memory card games, family "planning" events to practice escape routes and safe places, and role playing to practice what to say if they are separated from you and need to find help/call 9-1-1.

Fort Worth Outdoor Warning Sirens

Depending on the weather and cloud coverage, every Wednesday at 1pm, the Fire Department's Office of Emergency Management tests the outdoor warning sirens across the City. In total, there are 153 sirens stationed throughout the 356 square miles of Fort Worth.


Do you know why the sirens are sounded when it's not an emergency? There are certain criteria for activating the sirens. The graphic breaks down the main reasons why they will be sounded during an emergency.

The tone for the sirens- no matter what they are being sounded for- is the same. The purpose of the siren is to alert anyone **OUTDOORS** to move inside immediately and seek additional information. The sirens are not meant to be heard indoors.

	
Tornado Warning or Confirmed Rotation	Chemical Spill or Other Declared Emergency
	
Winds in excess of 70 mph	Reports of Hail 1.5+ inch in diameter

**CITY OF FORT WORTH
OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS
CRITERIA FOR ACTIVATING THE SIRENS**

*Criteria can be altered for increased safety during Special Events or at the discretion of the Duty Officer.



PET EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT CHECK LIST

- VET RECORDS & PRESCRIPTIONS
- RABIES CERTIFICATE
- PROOF OF OWNERSHIP
- VACCINATION RECORDS
- MICROCHIP INFORMATION
- PET DESCRIPTION & PHOTOS
- LIST OF PET FRIENDLY HOTELS
- COLLAR WITH ID TAG
- LEASH AND PET CARRIER
- FIRST AID & SANITATION NEEDS
- FAMILIAR ITEMS & TOYS
- 3 DAY SUPPLY OF FOOD & WATER
- FLEA, TICK, & HEARTWORM MEDS



Don't Forget Your Pet!

What About Evacuation?

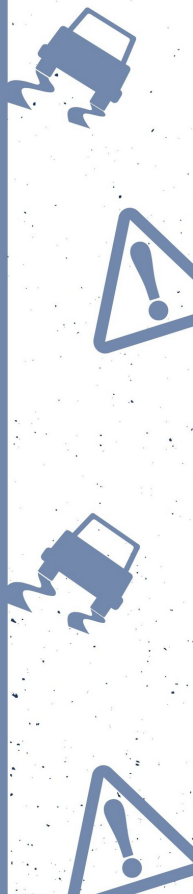
How to Create an Evacuation Plan

- Identify several places you could go in an emergency such as a friend's home in another town or a motel.
- Choose destinations in different directions so that you have options during an emergency.
- If needed, identify a place to stay that will accept pets. Most public shelters allow only service animals.
- Be familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
- Always follow the instructions of local officials.
- Develop a family communication and re-unification plan so that you can maintain contact and re-unite if you are separated.



VEHICLE EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- White distress flag
- Tire repair kit and tire pump
- Jumper cables
- Flares
- Bottled water and non-perishable food items
- Pair of closed-toed shoes
- Blanket
- Gloves
- Local map



There are many scenarios to take into consideration when planning for emergencies. Here are just a few helpful checklists to guide you in the right direction as you begin building your kits, writing your plans and preparing for all types of events.

Remember: *You Prepare to Protect.*

What Should be in Your Vehicle?

DISASTER RECIPE: MEXICAN BEANS AND CHICKEN



FROM THE KITCHEN OF

Your Fort Worth
Fire Department

SERVES 4 SERVINGS
PREP TIME NO PREP TIME
TOTAL TIME 10 MINS TOTAL

INGREDIENTS

- 1 can (10.5 oz) condensed cheddar cheese soup
- 1 can (15 oz) whole kernel corn, undrained
- 1 can (5 oz) chunk chicken, drained
- 1 can (15 oz) pinto beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 teaspoon of chili powder

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large saucepan, combine the soup and corn
2. Stir in the chicken, beans, and chili powder
3. Using a camp stove, Sterno, or other heat source, heat through on fairly low heat for 10 minutes

Emergency Supply Kit Cooking Tips!

When you and your family are using your emergency supply kit after a disaster, you do not have to resort to eating out of a can for your meals! You can plan ahead for meals with non-perishable ingredients that can easily be put into your kit. The next time you stock up- be sure to grab the items and supplies listed above! *Want more recipes? Let us know and we'll share them from Your Fort Worth Fire Department Kitchen!*