

# GET READY! Kent County

## Twelve Month Citizen Preparedness Program

### Fact Sheet

### MAY: Create a Plan

*Disasters happen anytime and anywhere.*

*When disaster strikes, it is easier to cope when you are prepared.*

*GET READY! Kent County recommends creating a family disaster plan.*

#### Make Your Plan

**TALK:** Discuss with your family the types of disasters that are most likely to happen where you live. Working as a team, establish responsibilities for each member of the household. Determine alternatives if someone is absent.

**PLAN:** Pick two places to meet after a disaster.

1. Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
2. Outside your neighborhood, in case you can't return home or are asked to evacuate the area.
3. Ask a friend or relative that lives out of the area to be your family contact. After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance.
4. Discuss how to take care of your pets.

**LEARN:** Each adult in the household should know how to turn off utilities such as the electricity, water and gas. Learn how to use your home's fire extinguisher.

**CHECK SUPPLIES:** Make sure your emergency supply kits are in order, checking expiration dates on food and insuring you have ample water.

**TELL:** Household members should know where the emergency contact information is kept. Make copies for everyone to carry, keeping one copy in the emergency supply kit. Be sure to include an out-of-town contact.

#### Practice Your Plan

**QUIZ:** Every six months quiz your family members on what to do in an emergency. Make sure children know how and when to dial 911 for help.

**CONDUCT:** Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.

**REPLACE:** Check the expiration dates on stored food and water every six months. Make sure clothing in your kit is weather appropriate.

**TEST:** Test and recharge your fire extinguishers according to manufacturer's instructions.

**TEST:** Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

January	<input type="checkbox"/>	July	<input type="checkbox"/>
February	<input type="checkbox"/>	August	<input type="checkbox"/>
March	<input type="checkbox"/>	September	<input type="checkbox"/>
April	<input type="checkbox"/>	October	<input type="checkbox"/>
May	<input type="checkbox"/>	November	<input type="checkbox"/>
June	<input type="checkbox"/>	December	<input type="checkbox"/>

Change batteries \_\_\_\_\_ (month) each year.

#### Tips for success...

- Write down your family's disaster plan and post it by the telephone.
- Contact your local fire department for information on holding household fire drills. Ask about the STOP, DROP AND ROLL technique.
- Have everyone in the family create a list of personal items they would take with them if they only had 10 minutes to evacuate.
- Keep a non-electric phone in your home that can be used if the power goes out.

Fill out, copy and distribute to all family members.

#### Pocket Emergency Plan

Emergency Meeting Place: (just outside your home)

\_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Place: (outside your neighborhood)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Family Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

