

September Is Preparedness Month

Prepare Yourself and Your Family in Three Easy Steps

In September we start to think about being prepared for numerous things. Parents and children prepare for the school year, farmers prepare for harvest, and we all prepare in some way for weathering the upcoming winter months. We should all give some thought to being prepared for emergencies as well.

There are **Three Steps to Preparedness**:

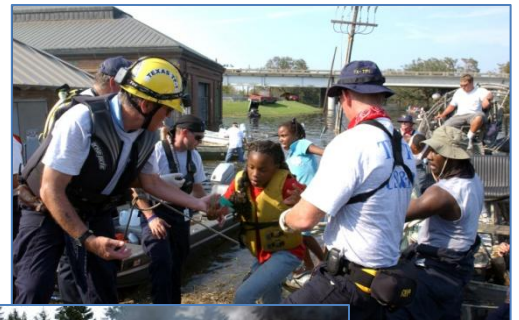
1. Get a Kit

- Have a disaster supplies kit packed and ready in one place before a disaster hits.
- Assemble enough supplies to last for at least three days in case you would need to leave home, including medicines that you would have to have with you.
- Store your supplies in an easy-to-carry container, such as a duffel bag with your name on it.
- Any equipment you need, such as a wheelchair, cane or walker should be labeled with your name and address.



2. Make a Plan

- What limitations do you have that might make it hard for you to leave? Do you have an animal? You may be able to take the animal with you so plan accordingly.
- Carry family contact information and medication lists in your wallet.
- Talk to your family about your plan and theirs.



3. Be Informed

- The following hazards are likely to happen in Defiance County:
 - ✓ Thunderstorms
 - ✓ Tornadoes
 - ✓ Winter storms (snow or ice)
 - ✓ Home Fires
 - ✓ Possible chemical spills resulting in evacuation
- Fulton County warning systems
 - ✓ Tornado sirens
 - ✓ TV channels 11,13, 24 and 36
 - ✓ NOAA Weather Radio
 - ✓ EAS (Emergency Alert System) Local television and radio stations broadcast emergency messages from local authorities.
 - ✓ Door-to-Door Warning from Local Fire or other officials. In some emergencies, local responders may come to your door to deliver an emergency message or warning. Listen carefully and follow their instructions.



This is just a short list of things to think about.

Further information can be obtained from our local Red Cross, Health Department or websites such as www.ready.gov and www.redcross.org.