

Town of West Seneca

Emergency Preparedness information

Recent natural and man-made disasters are an unwelcomed reminder of the devastating impact disasters can have on people and communities. The town is exposed to a wide variety of hazards, to include, flood, snow & Wind storms, terrorism, etc. Our greatest individual defense to these hazards is preparedness. During an incident, emergency response personnel could become overwhelmed and resources will be limited. What would happen if a disaster hit West Seneca? Are you fully prepared? How should you prepare? Preparing for disasters is a top priority of the town's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program and many hours have been spent preparing disaster plans, training our employees and volunteers, running exercises, and ensuring that we are prepared for any emergency that may occur in our community. However, we cannot do it on our own.

This handout outlines three important steps you and your family need to take to be prepared; Get a Kit, Make a Plan and Get Educated.

Get a Kit

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least three days. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. In addition, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may be cut off for days, or even a week or longer.

There are several different types of kits that you and your family need. A 72 hour Disaster Supply kit, Go Bags and Car Supply kits are essential to being fully prepared. These kits are a collection of basic items a family would need to stay safe and be comfortable during and after a disaster.

Some of the basic supplies that should be distributed through the kits are:

- Water: One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food: At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food (can opener)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Toiletries: Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cell phone with charger



Make a Plan

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations. More information available on www.westseneca.net

- Family Emergency Plan
- Pet Emergency Plan
- Senior Emergency Plan
- Evacuation Plan
- Shelter-in-place Plan
- Weather Radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Toiletries: Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Pet food and extra water for your pet

Get Educated

For Americans, preparedness must now account for man-made disasters as well as natural ones. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and will make all the difference when seconds count. The city does disaster education through several modes, but most effectively through CERT. CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) is a FEMA endorsed training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family, your neighbors and your community in the event of a disaster. By becoming CERT trained, you will gain the skills to save lives and Property
www.wscert.net



Online Resources

www.westseneca.net
www.wscert.net

Emergency Notification Systems

During emergencies or Non-emergencies, local officials and emergency managers must provide the public with life-saving information quickly. The Town of West Seneca uses multiple methods to provide information to the public, such as the Emergency Alerting System (EAS), Nixle, and the local radio stations. Once an emergency notification from public safety officials is delivered, follow the instructions provided.

Emergency Alert System (EAS)

The EAS system is a national public warning system that requires AM/FM radio stations, TV and cable to provide federal, state and local authorities a method to deliver important emergency information. Most stations will broadcast EAS messages. In an emergency, EAS will be activated to provide instructions on actions to take before, during and after an emergency. If you receive an EAS message, **DO NOT call 911 for information.** This congests the 911 system and could prevent someone with a life threatening emergency from receiving services.

Nixle Notifications

Sign up for Emergency and Non-Emergency alerts for up to date information during an incident or anytime from the Office of Disaster Preparedness. The Nixle system will provide the same EAS message to everyone that signs up. To register go to www.nixle.com

Prepared by:
Town of West Seneca
Office of Disaster Preparedness
716-558-3238

