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BLUEPRINT FOR SAFETY NEWS

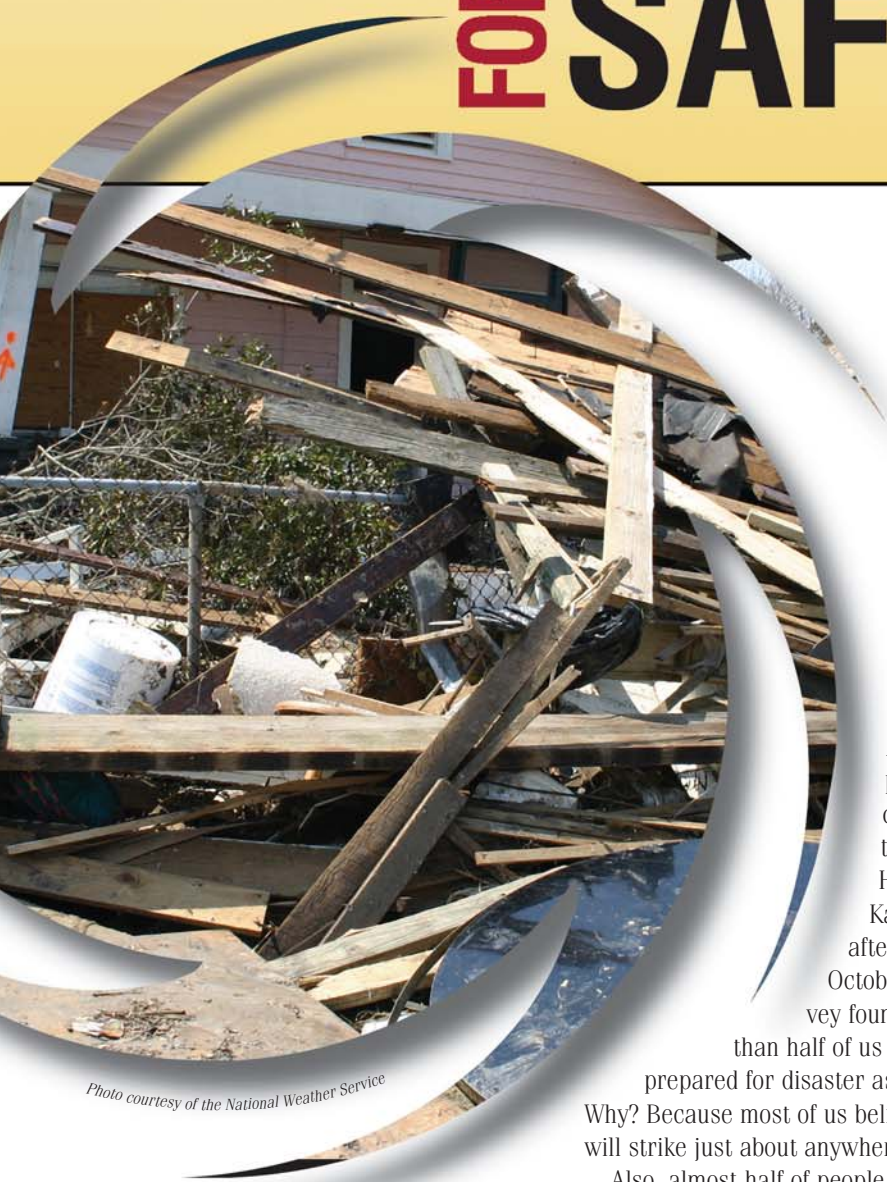


Photo courtesy of the National Weather Service

Preparing for Disaster

Yet, while 70% of Americans paid fairly close attention to news about Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, an October 2005 survey found that more than half of us are no better prepared for disaster as a result.¹

Why? Because most of us believe disaster will strike just about anywhere but home. Also, almost half of people surveyed said they did not know what to do to prepare, while two-thirds said they did not have a plan with family and friends for how they would keep in touch after disaster.

It Won't Happen to Us – Or Will It?

No place in the U.S. is immune from disaster, whether natural or manmade. In 2005 President George W. Bush made major disaster declarations for 29 states. Hurricanes including Dennis, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita, and Wilma led to disaster declarations in many states, while regions in other states were hard hit by landslides, severe storms, tornados, and flooding.

Millions of people were directly affected by these disasters. So far this year wildfire disasters in Texas, Oklahoma, and California have made headlines, while flooding, tornados, and other severe weather have affected dozens of communities elsewhere. The official start of the 2006 hurricane season is June 1.

No place in the U.S. is immune from disaster, whether natural or manmade.

The threat of earthquakes persists in the West and Midwest. Terrorist attacks can happen just about anywhere at any time. Other manmade disaster threats include chemical spills or toxic chemical releases from derailed trains or chemical plants that force local evacuation.

Disaster does not discriminate. It happens in towns small and large, to the prepared and unprepared.

Benefits of Planning Ahead

Most of us benefit on a daily basis from thinking ahead and planning. We plan our weekly meals and grocery needs. We prepare our children for school, making sure they have their lunch and homework. We

devise schedules for our hectic work days and plans for our weekend recreation. Without this planning, our lives would quickly become more stressful and perhaps chaotic.

Planning for disaster ahead of time provides important benefits as well. Having a disaster supply kit helps us be self-sufficient after disaster, at least until help arrives. Knowing where our family will meet, should we be separated when disaster strikes, helps keep the family together. Having an out-of-state point of contact for family members and friends helps to ensure a line of communication should our local utilities be inoperable.

How to Prepare for Disaster

The best time to make important decisions about your family's safety is before disaster strikes. Past events have shown that those who prepare in advance and have a plan do best during and after disaster. This issue of *Blueprint for Safety News* is designed to help you and your family prepare a disaster supply kit and create a family disaster plan. To get started, just turn the page...

¹ Light, Paul C. "The Katrina Effect on American Preparedness." 2005. *Center for Catastrophe Preparedness & Response*. November 18, 2005. www.nyu.edu/ccpr/katrina-effect.pdf



Photo courtesy of the Florida Division of Forestry

From Powerless to Prepared

By Leslie Chapman-Henderson, President & CEO, Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc. (FLASH®)

No one likes to imagine the worst, especially when they feel helpless. That's what FLASH® learned from a recent survey of Floridians. The survey was designed to discern public attitudes towards terrorism preparedness.

Out of 400 surveyed only 12 said they had a plan in case of terrorist attack. The reason most gave for not having a plan is that such attacks are hard to predict, and thus cannot be planned for.

Fortunately, once people were exposed to the fact that they can prepare for terrorism and thought about the benefits of being prepared, they seemed to lose their sense of powerlessness and began seeking more information.

This issue of *Blueprint for Safety News* is about helping you lose any sense of powerlessness you may have towards preparing in advance for any disaster, whether manmade like terrorism or natural like hurricanes.

Perhaps more importantly, this issue seeks to help you gain the peace of mind that comes with knowing you have done what you can to better survive disaster and help your family and community recover.



CEO'S CORNER

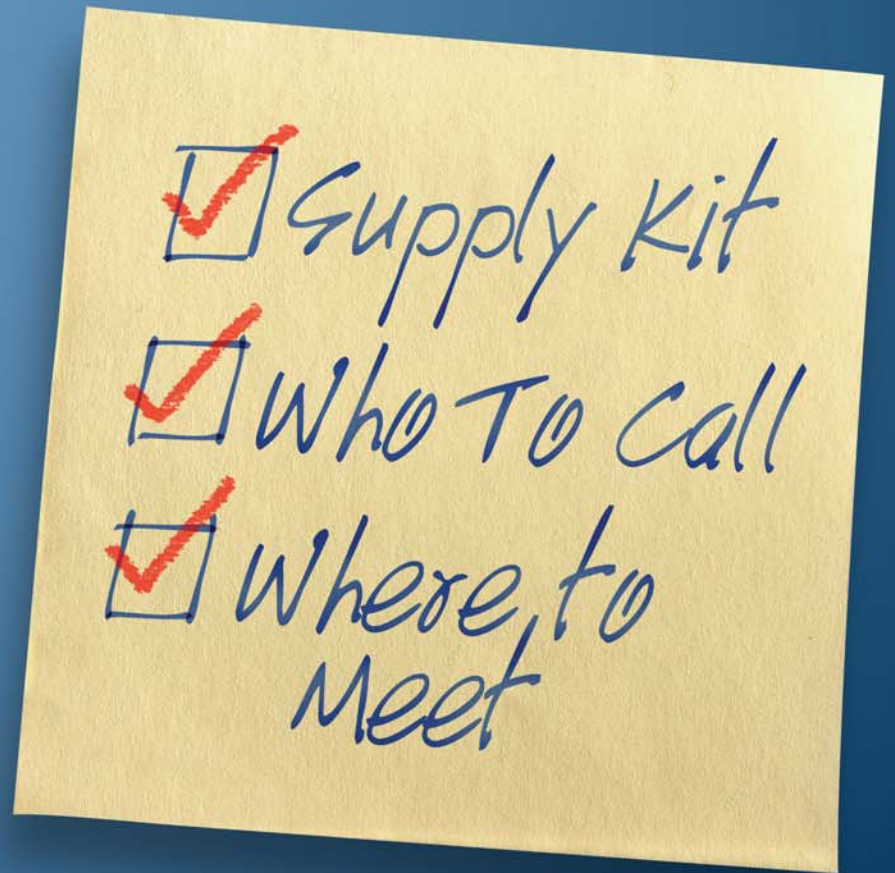
Family Disaster Plan

You and your family should have a plan in place before disaster strikes because you may not all be in the same location. To develop your plan:



- Decide on places where you would meet, for example a neighbor's home, public place or school.
- Have an out-of-state relative or friend as a family contact so that all family members have a single point of contact. Identify two ways of contact like a phone number and e-mail address.
- Review and practice your disaster plan with your family every six months.
- Also, be sure you have at least one vehicle with a full tank of gas at all times.

- Post emergency telephone numbers by your telephones, on the refrigerator, in your wallet or purse, and in children's backpacks. Make sure children know how and when to call 911.
- Listen carefully to authorities to know whether you should remain in your home or evacuate to safety. Be prepared to take your disaster supply kit with you if you evacuate. Plan how you will take care of your pets.



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Cut along dotted line



Strengthening Homes
and Safeguarding Families



Emergency Contacts • 9-1-1

Meeting Place

Out-of-State Contact Name

Telephone Numbers

E-mail

For more information go online
at www.flash.org

ALL HAZARDS
NOAA WEATHER
RADIO

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) provides critical life-saving information for you and your family. NWR broadcasts warnings and post-event information for all types of hazards including:

Severe Weather, such as hurricanes, tornados, floods;

Natural Disasters, such as earthquake, forest fires, volcanic activity;

Technological Accidents, such as chemical release, oil spill, nuclear power plant emergencies, maritime accidents, train derailments; and

National Emergencies, such as terrorist attacks.

You can find weather radios at many retail outlets, including electronics, department, sporting goods, and boat and marine accessory stores and their catalogs. Weather radios can also be purchased via the Internet from online retailers or directly from manufacturers. For more information including a list of weather radio manufacturers, visit www.weather.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm#pad.



DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

If disaster should hit your community, public services like water and electricity may be shut off. You may not be able to get to a store for food, supplies and medicine. In a worst case you may have to evacuate. Having a disaster supply kit prepared ahead of time is critical.

Gather the following supplies in an easy-to-carry container such as a plastic tote or duffel bag:

- Water – at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation and sanitation)
- Nonperishable food – at least a three- to seven-day supply (consider purchasing MREs, or Meals Ready to Eat, from army surplus stores or online)
- Prescription medicines and their original bottles
- Battery-operated radio
- Blankets and pillows
- Manual can opener
- Dust masks
- Extra cash
- Extra clothing (at least one complete change of clothing)
- Eye protection
- First aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Garbage bags and plastic ties
- Hygiene products
- Identification
- Moist towelettes
- Paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils
- Notepad and pencil
- Plastic sheeting
- Plastic storage containers
- Soap
- Special supplies for infants including diapers and formula
- Special supplies for pets including pet food, pet crates, and proof of vaccinations
- Tape
- Toilet paper
- Utility knife
- Work gloves
- Other items specific to your family



Keeping Safe After Disaster

You still need to take steps to keep you and your family safe even after the immediate disaster threat has passed.

Getting Back Home

Stay tuned to local news organizations for important announcements, bulletins, and instructions.

You may not have immediate access to your home. Roads could be blocked, power lines could be down, and people may be trapped and in need of assistance.

Make sure that you have current identification. You may have to pass through identification checkpoints before being allowed access to your home/neighborhood.

Driving

Avoid driving, as roads may be blocked. Avoid sight-seeing, or entering a disaster-ravaged area unnecessarily. You could be mistaken for a looter.

If driving cannot be avoided, do not attempt to drive through floodwaters. Remember the slogan, “Turn Around, Don’t Drown®”, as there could be unseen dangers, such as downed power lines, debris or a washed out roadway.

Avoid downed power lines, even if they look harmless. Avoid metal fences and other metal objects near downed lines.

Power Outage

DO NOT use matches or lighters in a disaster ravaged area until all gas lines are checked for leaks. Keep flashlights and plenty of batteries at hand.

Avoid turning the power on at your home if flooding is present. Have a professional

conduct a thorough inspection first.

When using a generator, make sure to operate it outdoors and away from openings in the home, including air-conditioning units.

Telephone lines will likely be busy in the area. Use a phone only for emergencies.

Clean-Up

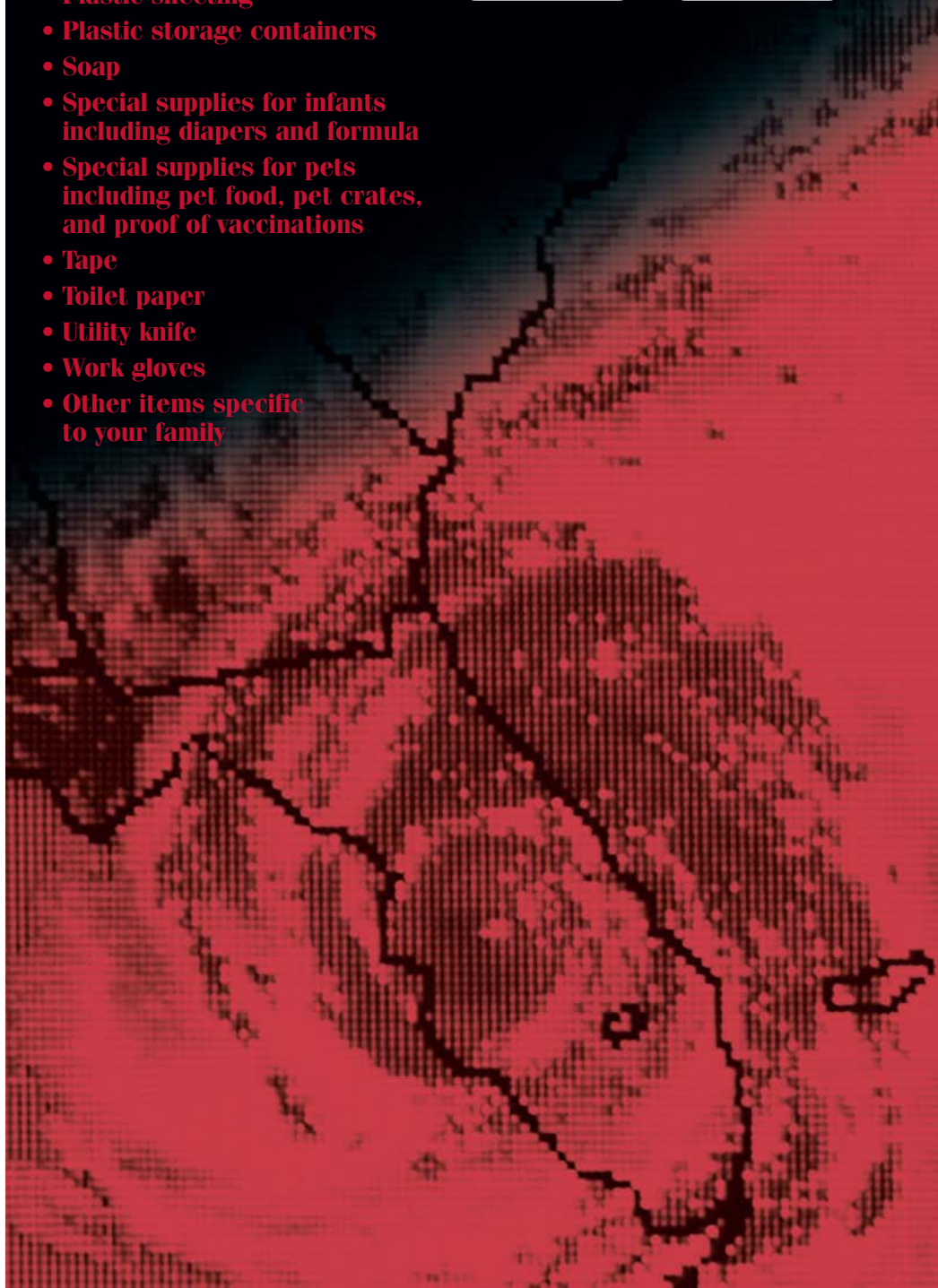
Consider having professionals/licensed contractors inspect your home for damage and help in repairs. This includes electricians, as well as professionals to inspect gas lines, remove uprooted trees, and check plumbing. Downed or damaged trees can contain power lines that pose an electrocution threat.

Use a camera or camcorder to record thoroughly any damage done to your home before repairs are attempted.

Food & Water

Flooding brings with it the risk of water-borne bacterial contaminations. You should assume that the water is not safe and use properly stored water or boil your tap water.

Identify and throw away any food that may not be safe to eat. This includes food that may have come into contact with flood waters and perishable foods (including meat, poultry, fish, eggs, leftovers) that have been above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two or more hours.



DISASTER SAFETY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

ACADEMIC PARTNERS

Austin College
Central US Earthquake Consortium
International Code Council
Texas Tech Wind Science
and Engineering Research Center
Actuarial Foundation

NATIONAL PARTNERS

American Red Cross
American Society of Home Inspectors
Citigroup
FEMA
Firewise
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National Roofing Contractors Association
National Storm Shelter Association
National Weather Service
Nationwide
NeighborWorks Insurance Alliance
St. Paul Travelers
State Farm Insurance Companies
The Home Depot Foundation
The Home Depot, Inc.
The Salvation Army
USAA

REGIONAL PARTNERS

Apalachee Regional Planning Council
Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association
Southwestern Insurance Information Service
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

STATE PARTNERS

Alabama Department of Insurance
Arkansas Department of Insurance
Building Officials Association of Florida
Citizens Property Insurance Corporation
Disaster Contractors Network
Florida Department of Community Affairs
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Department of Financial Services
Florida Division of Forestry
Florida Emergency Preparedness Association
Florida Fire Chiefs Association
Florida Highway Patrol
Florida Insurance Council
Florida Select
Georgia Department of Insurance
Georgia Emergency Management Agency
Independent Insurance Agents of Texas
Insurance Council of Texas
Kentucky Division of Emergency Management
Kentucky Office of Insurance
Kentucky Weather Preparedness Committee
New Jersey Office of Emergency Management
New York State Insurance Department
North Carolina Department of Insurance
Poe Financial Group
Texas Department of Insurance
Texas Department of Public Safety
Travelers of Florida
Virginia Bureau of Insurance
Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Volunteer Florida
West Virginia Insurance Commission

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Brevard Prepares
City of Anderson, Indiana
City of Deerfield Beach, Florida
Duval Prepares
Hernando County Emergency Management
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Home Builders Association of Greater Dallas
Miami-Dade Emergency Management
Tulsa Partners
Volusia Prepares

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Alfred W. Gross, Virginia Insurance Commissioner
Glen Jennings, Executive Director, Kentucky Office
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Jim Long, North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance
John W. Oxendine, Georgia Insurance & Fire Safety
Commissioner
Rick Perry, Texas Governor
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RESOURCE PARTNERS

DuPont
FamilySafe
PGT Industries
Simpson Strong-Tie
Smart VENT, Inc.
Ventilated Awnings
Wayne-Dalton

Make Your Home Disaster Resistant with FLASH's Blueprint for Safety® Program



You now know the steps you can take to better prepare yourself and your family for possible disaster. But what about your home? Your house is not only your biggest financial investment, it will most likely be your shelter in a disaster.

FLASH's Blueprint for Safety® educational program is designed to provide you with accurate, current and reliable information about disaster-resistant building techniques and features for your home.

DO YOU KNOW:

- That a home's windows, exterior doors and garage doors can be especially vulnerable in a hurricane or other wind storm?
- Whether you live in an area prone to flooding?
- What a "defensible space" is and how it helps firefighters protect your home from wildfire?
- That, in an average year, hail causes more than \$1.6 billion worth of damage to residential roofs in the U.S.?

With FLASH's Blueprint for Safety website (www.blueprintforsafety.org) you can find the answers to home safety questions and discover how to strengthen your home against disaster. Learn how to reinforce your home's roof against high winds. Find out what you can do to make your home's roof less likely to catch fire from firebrands such as burning leaves. Explore your options for protecting your home's windows, exterior doors and garage doors from wind storms such as hurricanes – you can even get a cost estimate.

Visit www.blueprintforsafety.org and www.flash.org today!



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