

- Matches in a waterproof container.
- Whistle.
- Extra clothing and blankets.
- Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils.
- Photocopies of identification and credit cards.
- Cash and coins.
- Special needs items such as prescription medications, eyeglasses, contact lens solution, and hearing aid batteries.
- Items for infants.
- Tools, pet supplies, and a map of the local area.

**Vehicle Kit:**

- Flashlight, extra batteries, and maps.
- First aid kit and manual.
- White distress flag.
- Tire repair kit, jumper cables, air pump, and flares.
- Bottles of water and non-perishable foods such as granola bars.
- Seasonal supplies for summer or winter.

**4. Maintain Your Plan**

- **Quiz:** Review your plan every six months and quiz your family.
- **Drill:** Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills on a regular basis.
- **Restock:** Check your food supplies for expiration dates and discard, or replace every six months.
- **Test:** Read indicators on your fire extinguisher and follow the manufacturer's instructions to recharge. Test your smoke alarms monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

**Source**

Information contained in this pamphlet was referenced from the American Red Cross, FEMA, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



BILL BROWN  
Sheriff-Coroner

**Information Web Site**

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
HEADQUARTERS**

P.O. Box 6427  
4434 Calle Real  
Santa Barbara, CA 93160-6427  
(805) 681-4100

**SBSO STATIONS**

Buellton (805) 686-8150  
Carpinteria (805) 568-3399  
Isla Vista (805) 681-4179  
Lompoc (805) 737-7737  
New Cuyama (661) 766-2310  
Santa Maria (805) 934-6150  
Solvang/Santa Ynez (805) 686-5000  
Marketplace-Goleta (805) 571-1540

**WEB-SITE:** [www.sbsheriff.org](http://www.sbsheriff.org)

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

BILL BROWN  
Sheriff-Coroner

**EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS**



**Are you ready for an emergency?**

**Get prepared.**

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## A Prepared Sheriff's Office:

The Sheriff's Office has taken steps to insure it is prepared to respond to any disaster in Santa Barbara County. The Sheriff's Office has staff assigned to prepare emergency plans and coordinate with other agencies and organizations. The Sheriff's Office uses the SEMS (Standardized Emergency Management System) and the ICS (Incident Command System) to coordinate its response to disasters. The Sheriff's Office maintains large inventories of critical supplies such as food, water, and other specific law enforcement resources to sustain its personnel.

## Are you Prepared:

Where will you be when a disaster strikes? Emergencies and disasters can strike quickly and without warning and can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What if basic services, water, gas, electricity, or telephones are cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. You can cope with a disaster by preparing in advance and by working with your family as a team. Follow the steps listed in this pamphlet to be prepared:

1. Get informed
2. Make a plan
3. Assemble a kit
4. Maintain your plan and kit

### 1. Get Informed

- Contact your local emergency management office or local American Red Cross to gather information you will need to create a plan.
- Ask about specific hazards that threaten your community; (e.g., earthquakes, wildfires, floods, and landslides.)
- Learn about community response plans, evacuation plans, and emergency shelters. Check with your child's school or day care center regarding their emergency plans.

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### 2. Make a Plan

- **Meet with your family members** and review information you have gathered. Include caregivers in your meeting and planning efforts.
- **Choose an "out-of-state" contact.** Ask an out-of-state relative to be your contact. Following a disaster, family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know the contact phone numbers. After a disaster, it is often easier to make a long distance call than a local call from a disaster area.
- **Decide where to meet.** In the event of an emergency, you may become separated from family members. Choose a place right outside your family home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire. Choose a location outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.
- **Complete a family communication plan.** Your plan should include contact information for family members, work, and school. Your plan should also include information for your out-of-state contact, meeting locations, emergency services, and the National Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222). A sample for recording this information can be found at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). Teach your children how to call emergency numbers and when it is appropriate.
- **Escape routes and safe places.** In a fire or other emergency, you may need to evacuate on a moment's notice. Be sure everyone in your family knows the best escape routes out of your home as well as where the safe places are in your home for each type of disaster.
- **Plan for those with disabilities and other special needs.** Keep support items in a designated place so they can be found quickly. For those who have home health caregivers, particularly for those who are bed bound, it is essential to have an alternate plan if the home health caregiver cannot make it to you. In advance, provide the power company with a list of all power dependent life support equipment required by family members. Develop a contingency plan that includes an alternate

power source for the equipment or relocating the person.

- **Plan for your pets.** Take your pets with you if you evacuate. However, be aware that pets (other than service animals) usually are not permitted in emergency shelters for health reasons. Prepare a list of family, friends, boarding facilities, veterinarians, and "pet friendly" hotels that could shelter your pets in an emergency.
- **Utilities.** Know how and when to turn off water, gas, and electricity at the main switches or valves, and share this information with your family and caregivers. Keep any tools you will need near the shut-off valves. (Note: Gas shut-off procedure—As part of the learning process, do not actually turn off the gas. If the gas is turned off for any reason, only a qualified professional can turn it back on. It may take an extended period of time for a professional to respond. In the meantime, you will require an alternate source to heat your home, make hot water, and cook).
- **Fire Extinguisher.** Be sure everyone knows how to use your fire extinguishers (ABC type) and where they are kept.
- **Smoke Alarms.** Install smoke alarms on each level of your home, especially near the bedrooms. Individuals with sensory disabilities should consider installing smoke alarms that have strobe lights and vibrating pads. Follow local codes and manufacturers' instructions regarding installation requirements. Also consider installing a carbon monoxide alarm in your home.

### 3. Assemble Disaster Supplies.

#### Home Kit:

- Three-day supply of nonperishable food and manual can opener.
- Three-day water supply, one gallon per person, per day.
- Portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Sanitation and hygiene items.