

Be Alert

Be Aware of Your Surroundings

Report any out-of-the-ordinary occurrences such as suspicious packages, unattended luggage or brief cases or other unusual items or activity to the appropriate local law enforcement authorities.

Pay Attention to the News

Local radio and television stations can provide you with up-to-date information during an emergency. Investing in a NOAA Weather Radio is another way to receive weather and other emergency alerts.

For more information, visit:

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

www.BeReadyIowa.org

www.Ready.Gov

www.redcross.org



Mission Statement

To support, coordinate, and maintain state and local homeland security and emergency management activities in order to establish sustainable communities and assure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

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Are You Prepared?



A Guide to Individual Preparedness

**Create an emergency plan
and supply kit**

**Iowa Homeland Security and
Emergency Management Division**

A message from the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division



September 11, 2001, forever changed America and affected each and every one of us. While there is no way to know when, where, or if

terrorists will strike again, the nation has devoted its attention and resources to securing our homeland.

It is important for Iowans to know that homeland security efforts to make our nation, state, and citizens safe, is a priority in Iowa. As the result of a partnership between citizens, state and local governments, and the private sector, Iowa is more secure and better prepared to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism and other disasters, natural or human-made.

To minimize the affects of a disaster, Iowan's must be prepared to help themselves and their neighbors. Actions you take now will reduce the fear, anxiety and losses that accompany disasters. Whether its forming a neighborhood watch group or making a family emergency plan, there are things Iowans can do to be safer and more prepared.

Be prepared

An emergency—be it a natural disaster such as a flood or winter storm, a power outage or a terrorist act—can occur quickly and without warning. Although we cannot prevent emergencies, there are some simple things that we can do now to be better prepared.

Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit

Basic items include:

- Water and food for three days
- Battery-operated radio
- Flashlight
- First-aid kit
- Clothing
- Bedding
- Personal hygiene items
- Money
- Specialty items such as prescription medications, baby formula, diapers, and pet supplies
- Copies of important documents such as driver's licenses, birth certificates, insurance policies, and financial information



Be Prepared to Shelter in Place

Local officials may advise you to shelter in place or remain indoors to protect yourself. If instructed to shelter in place:

- Go inside immediately
- Take your emergency supply kit
- Go to an interior room without windows

Create a Family Communication Plan

Choose an out-of-town friend or relative to be a contact point for family members to call if you are separated during an emergency.

Make sure everyone knows how and when to call 911 or local emergency medical services. Post emergency contact phone numbers near telephones.

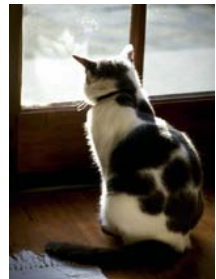


Develop a Family Evacuation Plan

Contact your local emergency management agency to learn about your community's emergency plan, the location of shelters and hospitals, and evacuation routes.

Make Plans for Your Pets

Most shelters do not accept pets. Prepare a list of kennels, friends, and family members who may be able to care for your pet in an emergency.



Address Special Needs

Make plans now to ensure the needs of someone you know who is elderly or dependent on life-sustaining or health-related equipment such as a ventilator or respirator.