

# Family Preparedness Presenter Script

This is the presenters lesson plan for the family preparedness presentation. It is very important that the presenter emphasize the personal liability of the audience to do something about their level of preparedness.

Each person (or family) in the audience should have a pencil and an answer sheet with 18 blanks. Instruct the audience to first listen to the question and the qualifiers; they should only answer the question after you have directed them to.

At the end of the presentation be sure to collect the sheets so that the audience knows that you value their effort and so that you can compile local statistics.

**Do not use scare tactics.** This presentation is not intended to frighten people. This presentation is to inform the audience of the definition of preparedness and the consequences of not preparing.

**Preparedness builds confidence.** Although this is a difficult subject to talk about, emphasize that preparedness builds true confidence because families know what to do, how to do it, and when to do it. The family that prepares together has the assurance that their loved ones are all right. The family that prepares together knows that they will still be a family after the disaster passes.

## 1. Do you believe that your community is ready for a disaster?

- Are there enough ambulances for everyone?
- Are there enough fire trucks for all of the fires?
- Are there enough emergency responders for everyone?
- Are there enough hospital beds for everyone?
- Are all of the plans in place and tested?

## 2. Is your family ready for a disaster?

- Do you have food, water, shelter, and medicine for at least three days?
- Can you survive without electricity for at least a week?
- Does everyone in your family know what their role is?
- Is your water heater strapped against tipping?

3. Have you discussed all the hazards in your community?

- Power failures
- Wildfires
- Storms
- Winter cold (frozen pipes and hypothermia)
- Summer heat (heat prostration)
- Hazardous materials spills
- Possible evacuations
- Terrorism

4. Do you have minimal supplies for 72 hours?

- food
- water
- medicine
- pet food
- baby food or formula
- games, photographs, toys

5. Do you have a 72 hour kit for an evacuation?

- Are you ready to abandon your house and leave within five minutes?
- Are you prepared to be unable to return to your home for weeks?
- Do you have clothing, and comfort items ready at a moments notice?

6. Does your car have a 72 hour kit?

- Do you have food and water for three days in your car?
- Do you keep a blanket in your car in the winter?
- Do you have a first aid kit in your car?
- Have you checked the pressure in your spare tire in the last three months?
- Have you checked your coolant level in the last three months?

7. Are all your family members current in first aid and CPR?

- Have you and all your family members qualified in basic first aid and CPR?
- Do your children know how to use 911?
- Do you have a reasonably stocked first aid kit?
- Does everyone know where the first aid kit is?

8. Do you have operational smoke detectors?

- If they have a battery, is it less than one year old?
- If it is AC line powered, does it have a fresh backup battery?
- Have you vacuumed them out in the last three months? (Dust clogs them)
- Have you tested them in the last three months?

9. Do you have an ABC fire extinguisher in your home?

- Is it big enough?
- Is it away from sources of ignition?
- Have you checked the pressure gauge in the last six months?
- Have you shook the powder loose in the last six months?
- Has everyone you expect to use an extinguisher been trained on their use?

10. Do your family members know how to turn off all the utilities?

- Water: Frozen pipes can be a personal disaster!
- Gas: Fire is a major threat after an earthquake. Gas leaks are deadly too!
- Electricity: How do you know if it's a power failure or a tripped breaker?

11. Are all your important papers safeguarded from fire and flood?

- How will you account for all of your belongings?
- Who are your creditors?
- Where are the titles for your vehicles?
- Birth certificates?
- A video tape of all you belongings is highly recommended.
- Power of attorney for family members?
- Where are your wills?

12. Do you have an evacuation plan?

- Where will you meet if you are separated and can't go home?
- Have you ever been there?

13. Have you had a family fire drill in the last year?

- Practice using all of the exits.
- Agree on a safe rendezvous site.

14. Do you have an out-of-area phone contact?

- Someone in another part of the United States.
- An answering machine with remote access is a good idea.

15. Do you have a disaster buddy?

- Who will look for you or your family if you're trapped?
- Do you know where your neighbors and their children sleep?
- Do you have any elderly or physically challenged neighbors that may need help?

16. If you have children, do their facilities have plans and do you know what they say?

- Is your child care facility prepared to care for your child for up to three days?
- If they have an evacuation plan, where will they take your children?
- What do they expect of you?
- If they don't have a plan, ask how you can help prepare a plan!

17. Is there a good reason why you answered "NO" to any of the first 16 questions?

- You're only off the hook for questions about children if you don't have kids.
- Even if you're single, you need to be prepared.

18. Do you want a neighborhood preparedness plan?

- Would you like to have an agreed on set of plans with your neighbors?
- Would you like to have personal training on some preparedness items?
- Would you like to have group buys of materials to save money?

## Children have special needs: Security Games Photos

- Never ever forget this when you're making you plans. Here is some good advice from the experts:
- Never leave children alone!
- Give children something to do. Cleaning, watching over a pet, games, whatever.
- Color the story seems to be a very good way for children to express fear.
- Have photos of loved ones available to remind them that their family is still together.

## OK, so how do we prepare?

### Know the hazards!

- Earthquake
- Wind
- Tsunami
- Heat & Cold
- Flood
- Fire
- Hazmat
- Lifelines
- Volcano
- Blackout

### Make a plan!

Identify what you will do and how you will do it.

### Practice the plan!

Practice the plan and learn the necessary skills.  
Fire fighting, first aid, shutting off utilities.

## What do I do first?

There's a lot to do, isn't there? How do I know what is the most important?  
Here's a tip that's agreed on by almost all emergency managers:

**Establish your out of area contact TODAY!**

You will have peace of mind about your friends and family at large.  
Your friends and family at a distance may be able to help you.  
You will not be burdening local phone circuits.

**Act now! If you don't do something in the next 24 hours,  
you will probably do nothing at all!**

Human nature tells us that if you don't make a change quickly you probably  
will not change.

The easiest item to start with is the phone contact; Just Do It!

There's literature in the back of the room for you to take home. Sit down with  
your family and friends and go over it together; the time you spend on planning  
together may be the best family experience that you've had for some time.