

CITIZEN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

A MESSAGE FROM WINTER GARDEN FIRE RESCUE



The Winter Garden Fire Rescue Department believes everyone plays an important role in emergency preparedness.

Emergencies or disasters can strike at anytime with little warning and may force you to decide to evacuate your current location or stay where you are.

It is important to consider what an emergency or disaster could mean for you and your family, as everyone's needs and abilities are different. We urge every citizen to use this important information to make an emergency preparedness plan.



An Emergency Preparedness Plan can be accomplished in three simple steps:

STEP 1: MAKE A KIT

In a significant emergency, First Responders could be delayed in responding to 9-1-1 calls. Therefore, you should have a kit that will provide for you and your family for up to three days (72 hrs.) This kit should include all the food, supplies, medications, and documents you may need for you and your family. If you evacuate or relocate you will need to take your kit with you. The Fire Department can provide an emergency preparedness card for the side of your refrigerator or cabinet to help get you started.

STEP 2: MAKE A PLAN

An emergency preparedness plan should be in place prior to an emergency or disaster and shared with other family members or emergency contacts. Your plan should include where you might relocate to if you evacuate from your residence. Evacuation should be considered prior to a hurricane or a tornado if you are not located in a permanent sturdy structure. If you evacuate, do so early! Your best options are to seek shelter in a permanent sturdy structure; such as the home of a nearby family member, friend, or a local hotel. Bring your emergency contact numbers and important documents (insurance forms, wills and cash) with you. Note: Shelters rarely open ahead of a disaster and should be one of your last options. If you have pets, you should make plans in advance and have knowledge of pet-friendly hotels in your area. Many shelters are not pet-friendly unless your pet is a service animal. Also, if you or a family member have special needs, you are encouraged to contact Orange County Health Services at (407) 836-9319 to discuss being included in their (People With Special Needs) registry.

STEP 3: BE INFORMED

Become informed about the various types of emergencies and disasters that might occur in your area. Local radio stations or televisions (if operable) can provide important information. In an emergency, the City of Winter Garden and Orange County also have additional resources that may be helpful. Winter Garden Fire Rescue recommends that all citizens (who use a cell phone as a primary contact), consider registering their cell phone into the "CODE RED" registry located on the Winter Garden Police Department web page at wgpd.com. "CODE RED" matches your cell phone to your home address, allowing emergency dispatchers to contact you with pertinent information in an emergency. Orange County also provides a free text and email service at OCALERT.net as well as an OCFL Alert App for smartphones and tablets. Both of these applications can provide you with important weather alerts and shelter information during an emergency. You may also dial 3-1-1 for all non-emergency inquires.

Make a Difference - Make a Plan



WINTER GARDEN FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS



Natural Disasters

- ◆ Florida is at high risk for hurricanes and tornados. Weather alert radios are recommended.
- ◆ *A Tornado Watch* means tornadoes are possible. *A Tornado Warning* means a tornado has been sighted.
- ◆ Decide early if you should shelter in-place or find shelter elsewhere.
- ◆ Seek shelter in a interior room on the bottom floor of a permanent sturdy structure.
- ◆ Follow local weather updates and alerts.



Severe Weather / Flooding / Lightning

- ◆ Remove yard hazards and keep trees trimmed.
- ◆ Remain inside, in a interior room, away from windows and openings.
- ◆ Beware of flooding. Don't walk or drive in flooded areas. Be prepared to exit your vehicle if it submerges.
- ◆ Check structures and attics after lightning storms if safely accessible. Consider lightning protection devices.

Home or Structure Fires

- ◆ Working smoke alarms are one of the most important safety devices in any structure.
- ◆ Prevent fire hazards by storing flammable liquids and paints appropriately.
- ◆ Never leave food unattended while cooking. Have a fire extinguisher available.
- ◆ Create and practice a fire escape plan from each room and determine a designated meeting place.

Smoke Alarms

- ◆ Smoke alarms should be located close to all sleeping areas.
- ◆ Test smoke alarms monthly and install new batteries (if replaceable) every 6 months.
- ◆ When buying or replacing smoke alarms, WGFRD recommends photoelectric type alarms.
- ◆ As of Jan. 2015, a battery run smoke alarm that is newly installed or replaces an existing battery run smoke alarm (Non-Wired, Non-Electrical) must be powered by a nonremovable, nonreplaceable, 10 year battery.



Terrorist Incidents

- ◆ Be aware! If you see suspicious activity or something that is clearly out of place, report it to the police.

Power Outages

- ◆ Report any down power lines and arching or visible fire from power lines, power poles or transformers.
- ◆ Outages may be extended, especially during severe weather. Stay inside, away from electrical hazards.
- ◆ Don't use generators inside a garage or house, carbon monoxide fumes can cause health issues or death.
- ◆ Ensure that ovens, stoves, heaters, irons, or other appliances that create heat are turned off during a power outage. Because when power is restored these appliances will come back on and may cause a fire hazard.

Please do not hesitate to call the Winter Garden Fire Rescue Department with any questions you may have related to emergency preparedness. Contact us at (407) 877-5175 during normal business hours.

Keeping Everyone Safe - Everyone Goes Home