

# Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Part 1: Introduction



***Preparedness is everyone's job.*** Not just government agencies but all sectors of society -- service providers, businesses, civic and volunteer groups, industry associations and neighborhood associations, as well as every individual citizen should plan ahead for disaster.

During the first few hours or days following a disaster, essential services may not be available.

People must be ready to act on their own

*Source: Colorado Office of Emergency Management*

# Why Prepare?

- ▶ How many risks for disaster do we have in Fort Collins?



# NEWS HEADLINE

*"79 percent of voters think it's possible the economy could collapse, including large majorities of Democrats (72 percent), Republicans (84 percent) and independents (80 percent)."*

Dana Blanton - FOXNews.com

# NEWS HEADLINE

- ▶ *“After the 8.8 magnitude earthquake struck Chile on Saturday, reports of looting were quick to follow, with officials needing to instigate curfews and dispatch thousands of troops to ease what Chile's President Michelle Bachelet called the ‘pillage and criminality’ throughout the region.”*

Source: Live Science, <http://tinyurl.com/yasewhn>

# NEWS HEADLINE

- ▶ April 13, 2010: "Nuclear blast victims would have to wait: The White House has warned state and local governments not to expect a 'significant federal response' at the scene of a terrorist nuclear attack for 24 to 72 hours after the blast, according to a planning guide."

Source: USA Today, <http://twt.gs/pV7K>

# Why Emergency Preparedness?

- ▶ Natural Disasters
  - Tornados
  - Snow storms
  - Floods
- ▶ Accidents
  - Train carrying toxic chemicals derails
- ▶ Terrorists Attacks
  - Localized, or widespread
    - ▶ Fort Collins has a Federal Bldg. Campus, making us a potential target
  - Conventional, nuclear, biological, chemical
- ▶ Pandemic
- ▶ Cyber-Attacks
  - Attacks on water & power control systems, aviation, manufacturing, banks
  - SCADA Systems
- ▶ Any of the above could cause civil unrest

# Emergency Preparedness Philosophy

- ▶ Small groups of people survive longer than individuals alone
  - Multiplication of skills
  - Multiplication of resources
  - Group dynamic in decision making
  - Social interaction and emotional support
  - Small group resembles the family unit

Caveat – all people in the group must be prepared

# Emergency Preparedness Stages

## ▶ Mitigation

- Risk assessment

- ▶ What events are most likely to happen?

- Hardening your Castle

- ▶ Make your home safe from hazards

- ▶ Make your home hard to break into in case of civil unrest

- ▶ Provide multiple 'layers' of home protection

- Training, training, training....

# Emergency Preparedness Stages

## ► Preparation

- Have a plan of action
- Have alternate or contingency plans
- Gathering and rotating supplies
- Training & practicing the plan
- Stay informed – watch the news

# Emergency Preparedness Stages

## ▶ Response

- Assess the type of event
- Assess the risks of that specific event
  - ▶ Risk of looting is high after a wide-spread, major disaster.
  - ▶ Risk of fire is high after major gas-line breakages
  - ▶ Risk of contaminated air, food, and water supplies is high after a chemical spill, nuclear blast, or biological attack
- Determine the anticipated duration of event
  - ▶ Will this be over in a few hours, or many days?
- Determine resources needed to get you through event

# Emergency Preparedness Stages

## ► Recovery

- Assessing the damage
- Assessing resources needed to get you through the anticipated recovery period
- Going back home or relocating?
- Getting back to normal

# Something To Think About!

*Commit a weekend to updating telephone numbers, buying emergency supplies and reviewing your emergency plan with everyone.*

# Emergency Preparation Time-Frames

## ▶ First 72 Hours

- Do you stay or do you bug out?
- Have enough supplies to allow you to focus on future planning

## ▶ 1 to 2 Weeks

- Do you stay or do you bug out?
- Where do you go?

## ▶ 1 Month and beyond

# Survival Elements

- ▶ Planning!
- ▶ Food and water
- ▶ Shelter
- ▶ First aid supplies
- ▶ Hygiene
- ▶ Self defense
- ▶ Hunting, fishing, and food gathering
- ▶ Communications

# Step One: Gather Information

- ▶ Contact your local emergency management or civil defense office and your local American Red Cross Chapter for the following information:
  - What disasters are most likely in your community?
  - How would you be warned?
  - How should you prepare for each?

## Step Two: Share the Information With Your Family

- ▶ Meet with all in your household to share information in these areas:
  - Discuss the types of disasters that could occur.
  - Explain how to prepare and respond.
  - Discuss what to do if advised to evacuate.
  - Practice what you have discussed.

## Step Three: Plan How Your Family Will Stay In Contact If Separated By Disaster

- ▶ In a disaster, normal communications may not be possible. To contact your loved ones, you should choose a meeting place:
  - A safe distance from your home in case of fire.
  - Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
  - An out-of-state friend as a check-in contact for everyone to call. Sometimes it is easier to make long-distance calls than to make local calls in a disaster situation.

## Step Four: Hazard Mitigation and First Aid Planning

- ▶ Post emergency telephone numbers by every phone.
- ▶ Show responsible family members how and when to shut off water, gas and electricity at main switches.
- ▶ Install a smoke detector on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms; test monthly and change the batteries twice each year.
- ▶ Contact your local fire department to learn about home fire hazards.
- ▶ Learn first aid and CPR. Contact your local American Red Cross

# Step Five: Meet With Your Neighbors

- ▶ Plan how the neighborhood could work together after a disaster.
  - Know your neighbors' skills.
  - Determine how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as elderly or disabled persons.
  - Make plans for child care in case parents cannot get home.

# The 72-Hour Kit

## ► Why 72 hours?

- It could take at least that long for services to be restored or for emergency crews to reach you.
- You need to be able to “buy time” to plan longer term survival or recovery

## ► What to include:

- Clothing
- Food
- Water
- Fire-starting, cooking
- Emergency blankets, ponchos
- Flashlight
- Important papers
- Optional: Firearms and ammunition

The background is a dark blue-grey color with a faint, light-colored topographic map overlay. A compass rose is visible on the left side, showing cardinal directions (N, S, E, W) and some degree markings.

Get a kit

Make a plan

Be informed

# Emergency Prep Resources

- ▶ <http://www.ready.gov>
- ▶ <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>
- ▶ <http://www.areyouprepared.com>
- ▶ <http://wildwoodsurvival.com>
- ▶ <http://preparedness.com/>
- ▶ [http://www.gonzosgarage.net/emergency\\_prep.html](http://www.gonzosgarage.net/emergency_prep.html)
- ▶ [http://urbansurvivallibrary.com/Home\\_Page.html](http://urbansurvivallibrary.com/Home_Page.html)
- ▶ <http://72hours.org/index.html>