

Some suggestions for Emergency Preparedness at home:

Emergency preparedness means working in advance of an emergency to ensure the health and safety of you and your family.

Keep up “**Situational Awareness**” by following television weather reports and, if you have a weather radio, by listening to Channel 1 (162.400 megahertz – from the local National Weather Forecast Office). In the event of severe weather, stay away from windows and move to an interior room or closet for best protection.

In the event of emergencies that require evacuation, prepare “72 hour” bags that contain:

1. medications (kept cold?) and any specialized equipment
2. snacks for several days
3. water (1 gallon per person per day)
4. first aid kit
5. clothing (change of clothing plus jacket/raincoat if needed)
6. portable radio with spare batteries
7. cell phone charged with battery backup.
8. flashlight with spare batteries.
9. specialty items needed for children or elderly.
10. check on family or elderly neighbors who might need help.

See the “Texas Ready” website listed at bottom for more information about 72 hr bags.

If an evacuation seems imminent, fill up your gas tank and, while driving, avoid flooded roads.

The FCC advises that non-emergency phone calls be limited during crises to avoid jamming communication networks. Text messages have a greater chance to get through, although their transmission may be delayed. Land lines have separate power, but you need a corded phone for them.

If the area is subjected to an extended freeze, such as we experienced in February 2021, and your home loses heat:

1. Wrap exposed pipes.
2. Turn off the water at your home’s water connection (may require a special tool available at home supply stores).
3. Do not run gasoline or propane appliances indoors as these will generate poisonous carbon monoxide.
4. Go to a warming center if you lose heat, bringing your 72 hour bag and sleeping bags if you have them.

Some helpful websites for Emergency Preparedness:

<https://texasready.gov/build-a-kit/disaster-supply-checklist.html>
<https://www.weather.gov/SKYWARN>