



Campus Cops Corner

-Public Safety Tips for the PPCC Community-

Public Safety Newsletter

What “*assumptions*” do you make about emergencies? We’ve recently commemorated the August and September anniversaries of both the Hurricane Katrina and 9/11 tragedies. Recognizing that these long-term and multi-day emergencies were often weather related (natural disasters) or acts of terrorism (man made disasters), I was reminded that during emergencies, we often take certain services and capabilities for granted, i.e., electricity, communication, food, water, etc. That prompted me to offer the following advice regarding “72-Hour Kits,” emergency rations, plans and preparedness.

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Important Numbers & websites:

- 24-7 Emergency Number: 502-2911
- Emergency Alert Sign Up: www.ppcc.edu/alert
- Crime Stoppers
634-STOP (7867)
- Anonymous Reporting
www.SAFE2TELL.org

1-877-542-7233

- **Power:** Cut power lines, “brown outs” during the summer or loss of heating during winter. While not everyone can have a generator at home, you can look into a kerosene heater, propane grill, flashlight (with extra batteries or handcrank), candles, and matches, etc. How hard would it be to keep a small and inexpensive flashlight in your car, purse and / or workplace? How will you charge your cell phone?
- **Communication (Alternative Meeting Place):** In the event of total loss of communication, standard protocols call for you to go to your nearest fire station in the event you need to summon help. On a lesser extreme, during some emergencies, the cell towers were overwhelmed with callers. If your cell and landlines don’t work, do you and your family have an AGREED UPON MEETING PLACE or MESSAGE BOARD (perhaps an unaffected third party with whom you’d leave messages) ? If you’re conserving cell phone power, will you agree to only turn your phones on for 10 minutes, during a designated time, (i.e., “from five after until 15 minutes past”) and that efforts to contact one another should be during that time. Emergency radios with extra batteries or handcrank will help you stay in touch with what’s going on a larger scale.
- **Food, Water & Medications:** Standard emergency protocols suggest that you have three days / 72 hours worth of emergency rations for you and your family. Stop and think about what that might look like for a family of four, i.e., 12 gallons of water and 36 meals at a minimum. If you have notice that the water is likely to be shut-off, you can fill the bathtub and stockpile water in other containers. While your emergency stores should consist of nonperishable canned and dried goods, don’t neglect to consume your spoilables before they go bad. Try to make a habit of refilling your meds before you run out. By the way, don’t forget rations for your pets!
- **Gasoline:** While we don’t recommend stockpiling large amounts of gasoline, you can “top off” your vehicles if given notice. A small 5-10 gallon container might help power a generator or provide those last few miles necessary until operations are restored.
- **Cash & Important Documents:** I recommend a few hundred dollars in bills no larger than \$10’s and \$20’s. At my house, we keep an “accordion folder” with our passports, birth certificates, marriage certificate, account numbers, military records, car titles, etc., all packaged together in the event we have to leave in a hurry. The El Paso County Clerk & Records Office said that after a disastrous apartment fire in Colorado Springs in 2007, many people were left in a quandary without proper and acceptable forms of identification.
- **Other Links & Sources:** While this short newsletter can’t possibly prepare you for every type of emergency we might face, hopefully I’ve whet your appetite to learn more. The link below from City of Colorado Springs web site offers links to various Emergency Preparedness agencies. Remember, **YOU’RE** the person most vested in ensuring you and your family are taken care of during the next emergency. (www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=299).