

# 12 Months of Preparedness

## What is 12 Months of Preparedness?

*12 Months of Preparedness* is a community wide initiative to prepare Oak Creek residents for an emergency by encouraging people to build an emergency preparedness kit.

Local businesses such as Pick 'n Save, Woodman's Market, Walgreens, Blain's Farm & Fleet, and Piggly Wiggly all support the *12 Months of Preparedness* program by featuring items in their store to add to your emergency preparedness kit. Make sure to look for featured item signs next time you shop!

## How this Program Works

Each month local stores feature emergency preparedness items such as bottled water, canned food, personal hygiene items, etc. Featured item cards are placed next to the item for the month so people can easily find items to add to their kit.

## Goal of the Program

The goal of this program is to have people build a complete emergency preparedness kit over a year using the essential items featured each month.



Be Informed



Make a Plan



Build a Kit



## Be Informed

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The *12 Months of Preparedness* program improves community preparedness for any emergency that might affect our city. An emergency may include natural disasters such as severe weather, a power outage, flooding, or an accidental chemical spill. In extreme cases, an emergency may include a deliberate biological, radiological or chemical threat, by releasing toxins in the environment. Numerous things can be done to help prepare for unexpected events, such as making an emergency preparedness kit. Find out more about these threats at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

## Make a Plan

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Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to think about the following situations and make a plan just in case. Consider the following questions when making a plan:



1. How will my family/household members get emergency alerts and warnings?
2. How will my family/household get to safe locations for relevant emergencies?
3. How will my family/household get in touch if cell phones, internet, or landlines do not work?
4. How will I let loved ones know I am safe?
5. How will family/household get to a meeting place after the emergency?

Here are a few easy steps to start your emergency communication plan:

1. **Understand how to receive emergency alerts and warnings.** Make sure all household members are able to get alerts about an emergency from local officials. Learn more about alerts by visiting: [www.ready.gov/alerts](http://www.ready.gov/alerts). To receive alerts about emergencies in Oak Creek visit: <http://oakcreekwi.mystateusa.com/alertSignup.aspx?region=21612>
2. **Discuss family/household plans for disasters that may affect your area and plan where to go.** Plan together, so that everyone in the household understands where to go during a different type of disaster such as a tornado or flood.
3. **Collect information.** Create a paper copy of the contact information for your family that includes:
  - Phone (work, cell, office)
  - Email



food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days.

A basic emergency preparedness kit could include the following recommended items:

- Plastic bin, duffel bag, or large tote to hold items
- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply per person of non-perishable food (canned vegetables, fruits, meats, and soups)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries, candles and lighter
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, paper products, garbage bags, and hand sanitizer
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Pocket knife
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and power packs
- Sleeping bag and blankets
- Disposable utensils, cups, plates
- Non-prescription & prescription medications
- Personal hygiene items
- For infants: formula, bottle, blanket, diapers, disposable wipes
- For pet owners: collar, leash, pet food, pet cage/carrier, medications



**\*Refer to the monthly featured item cards throughout the year to gather many of these essential emergency kit items.**

## Maintaining your Kit:

Just as important as putting your supplies together is maintaining them so they are safe to use when needed. Here are some tips to keep your supplies ready to use and in good condition:

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers to protect from pests and to extend its shelf life.
- Throw out any canned good that becomes swollen, dented or corroded.
- Use foods before they go bad and replace them with fresh supplies.
- Place new items at the back of the storage area and older ones in the front.
- Change stored food and water supplies according to the expiration date.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit, as your family's needs change.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit these websites:

<http://www.oakcreekwi.org/>

<https://www.ready.gov/>

<http://readywisconsin.wi.gov/>

If you have questions about the *12 Months of Preparedness* program please call the Oak Creek Health Department at 414-766-7950.

Be Informed, Make a Plan, and Build a Kit: if you follow these simple suggestions, you will be prepared for an emergency.