

# “ARE YOU PREPARED?”

Over the last month I have sent the entire membership several messages in the hopes of helping you and those around you to be better prepared for when disasters strike as part of our National Preparedness Month initiatives. I hope that we have all been successful in reaching out on this critical issue of preparedness. As one last self-check, I am providing an emergency preparedness quiz developed by the Department of Homeland Security for National Preparedness Month. Take a moment and review it with your family and friends, and once you've completed it...if you have not already...visit <http://www.ready.gov/> and put together an emergency supply kit and family emergency plan for you and your family. Thank you for your support of National Preparedness Month!

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS QUIZ

### 1. A Family Emergency Plan should NOT include which of the following?

- a. Information about the emergency plan at your children's schools
- b. The name and phone number of an out-of-town contact person
- c. A list of important phone numbers, including those of doctors and emergency services
- d. Arrangements for each person in the family to be at a specific land line telephone at a specific time
- e. A central meeting spot outside your home and one outside your neighborhood in case you need to leave the area

*The answer is D. The arrangements for each family member to be at a specific land line telephone at a specific time may not be possible or useful under many conditions, as people may have to relocate or evacuate entirely during a disaster. Families should create an emergency plan and carry important information with them so they know how to get in touch and get back together during an emergency. Finally, both telephone land lines and cellular phones may be overloaded or out of service during or after an emergency, so knowing in advance where to meet is important.*

### 2. When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think first about the basics of survival. Which of the following is NOT considered a necessity for survival?

- a. Drinking water
- b. Food
- c. Clean air
- d. Comfortable shoes
- e. Warmth

*The answer is D. While sturdy protective shoes are important during and after a disaster, they are not necessary for survival. You can learn more about the basics of survival by visiting <http://www.ready.gov/>.*

### 3. Which of the following items should NOT be included in a basic emergency supply kit?

- a. Water (one gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation)
- b. Non-perishable foods
- c. Battery-operated radio
- d. Dust mask or cotton fabrics
- e. Whistle
- f. Important family documents

- g. Candles
- h. Flashlight and extra batteries
- i. Manual can opener
- j. Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- k. Garbage bags and plastic ties
- l. Wrench or pliers
- m. First aid kit
- n. Unique family needs such as infant formula or prescription medicines

*The answer is G. All of the items listed above should be included in a basic emergency supply kit, except for candles. Candles pose a serious fire hazard, and it is safer to use a battery-operated flashlight or lantern. Learn more about emergency supply kits at <http://www.ready.gov/>.*

4. Which of the following is NOT a recommended action for emergency preparedness?
- a. Creating a family emergency plan
  - b. Stockpiling antibiotics
  - c. Becoming knowledgeable about types of potential emergencies and responses
  - d. Getting an emergency supplies kit

*The answer is B. Stockpiling antibiotics is not recommended because it is impossible to predict the exact nature of a biological emergency and there is not one antibiotic that effectively treats all possible bioterrorist-related sicknesses. In addition, inappropriate use of antibiotics can potentially lead to dangerous side effects and also contributes to the problem of many organisms developing antibiotic resistance.*

5. Which steps should pet owners take when preparing their pets for emergencies?
- a. Assemble an emergency supply kit with enough pet food and water for three days, as well as medications, medical records, leashes and ID tags. Develop an emergency plan that considers the pets' needs and make a list of animal shelters or veterinary hospitals in other cities where a pet may need to be temporarily sheltered in the case of an evacuation.
  - b. Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate pets if you are unable to do so.
  - c. To alert rescue workers during a fire or other emergency, place "Pets Inside" stickers on doors or windows, including information on the number and types of pets.
  - d. All of the above

*The answer is D. Pet owners should take all of the above steps when preparing their pets for emergencies. For more information on pet preparedness or to download brochures, visit the Ready Web site, <http://www.ready.gov/>, and click on Ready America.*

6. Which of the following is the federal government's Web site that provides information about how to get prepared for a natural disaster or other emergency?
- a. <http://www.prepared.gov/>
  - b. <http://www.safe.gov/>
  - c. <http://www.ready.gov/>
  - d. <http://www.protected.gov/>

*The answer is C. <http://www.ready.gov/>, the Web site of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign, is designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies. The goal of the campaign is to get Americans involved and ultimately to increase the level of basic preparedness across the nation. Ready asks Americans*

*to do three key things: get an emergency kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.*

**7. The Ready Kids portion of the Ready Web site includes all but which of the following?**

- a. In-school geography and language arts materials developed by Scholastic Inc.
- b. Downloadable activity books and stickers
- c. A dog mascot character named Fido
- d. Interactive games and activities for children ages 8-12
- e. Resources and links to other organizations that promote emergency preparedness and provide information on how to help children cope with emergency situations.

**The answer is C.** While Ready Kids does include a mascot character, his name is Rex and he is a strong and confident mountain lion who encourages children to help their families prepare for emergencies. For all of the resources and materials listed above, visit <http://www.ready.gov/> and click on Ready Kids.

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