

## Emergency Preparedness for Individuals and Households

Emergencies can happen at any time, and everyone has a role in staying prepared. Follow these steps to ensure you and your household are ready to respond to unexpected events.

### Why is Being Prepared Important?

Life can be unpredictable, and disruptions often occur without warning. Smaller-scale events, such as house fires, power outages, or water main breaks, may affect just one household. However, larger emergencies like tornadoes, floods, heatwaves, or winter storms can impact entire communities—and these types of events have occurred in our area before.

Taking proactive steps to prepare not only helps reduce the stress and uncertainty during an emergency but also ensures you and your loved

### What is My Role in an Emergency or Disaster?

In the event of a large-scale emergency, local emergency services may be overwhelmed by calls and have limited resources to respond immediately. While government agencies and organizations will step in to provide support, it could take days for help to reach everyone.

That's why it's essential for you to take responsibility for your own safety and that of your family. Preparing in advance and having an emergency plan in place will allow you to survive independently for at least three days. By following the steps outlined below, you can ensure that you

### Step 1: Identify the Hazards

Crawford County is vulnerable to a variety of dangers, which can disrupt daily life. These include:

#### Natural Disasters

- Severe Weather (Tornadoes, Hail, Strong Winds, Lightning)
- Floods
- Winter Storms
- Wildfires

#### Chemical Emergencies

- Railroads and Highways

- Gas Stations
- Industrial Plants

### **Terrorist Attacks**

- Large Gatherings
- Schools
- Places of Worship

### **Public Health Emergencies**

- Influenza
- Pandemics

It is crucial for you and your family to assess which of these hazards could impact your daily life and plan accordingly.

## **Step 2: Create Your Emergency Plan**

Being prepared can make all the difference when disaster strikes. Create a family emergency plan that everyone understands and can follow.

### **General Preparedness Tips**

- **Know How to Get Emergency Alerts:**  
Use multiple sources for emergency notifications:
  - [Genasys Notification System](#)
  - [Wireless Emergency Alerts](#)
  - NOAA Weather Radios
  - Outdoor Warning Sirens
  - [Crawford County Emergency Management Social Media](#)
- **Contact Information and Communication Plan:**
  - Ensure everyone in your household has work and cell numbers for all family members.
  - Identify an **Out-of-Town Contact**: Choose someone outside your local area to serve as a point of contact if local communication is disrupted.
  - Develop a plan for checking in with each other during an emergency.

## **GO (Evacuation)**

Be ready to leave your home or workplace quickly in the event of an evacuation:

### **Evacuation Plan**

- Know what to do if you must leave work early due to severe weather, fire, or a hazardous material spill.
- Plan for how to pick up children from school during an emergency.
- Identify multiple routes out of your neighborhood. Don't forget to plan for your pets.
- Include a map of your home marking all exits.

### **Two Family Meeting Places**

1. **Near Home:** A spot outside your house, such as a neighbor's yard, in case of fire.
2. **Outside Neighborhood:** A location to meet if you can't return home.

## **STAY (Shelter in Place)**

Know where to shelter during emergencies:

- Identify your shelter location for severe weather at home, work, or other places you frequently visit.
- Be prepared to shelter in place during chemical emergencies.

## **Step 3: Make a Preparedness Kit**

Emergencies can occur without warning, so it's important to have a three-day supply of essential items for everyone in your household, including pets.

### **Kit Checklist**

Store these items in easy-to-carry containers in your severe weather sheltering area:

- **Water:** 1 gallon per person per day
- **Radio:** AM/FM and NOAA All-Hazard Radio
- **Flashlight with Extra Batteries**

- **Glow Sticks** (optional)
- **First Aid Kit**
- **Medications:** Include prescriptions
- **Personal Hygiene Items:** Soap, deodorant, wet wipes, etc.
- **Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer**
- **Whistle:** Can be heard better and longer than yelling
- **Essential Personal Items:** Eyeglasses, inhalers, contacts, wheelchair, etc.
- **Nonperishable Foods:** Canned foods, peanut butter, crackers, pet food, and a can opener
- **Clothing:** Include seasonal items and hard-soled shoes
- **Cash or Credit Card**
- **Blankets or Sleeping Bags**
- **Entertainment Items:** Books or indoor games
- **Copies of Important Documents:** Bank statements, insurance cards, driver's licenses, birth certificates (hard copies or on a memory stick)

**Check Your Kit Annually:**

Review your kit at least once a year to ensure all items are in good condition and up-to-date.