



12 Months of Preparedness



July Newsletter

MAKE A PLAN

Whether you are new to the program, or back for Month Seven, please review the previous newsletter activities (complete the “Family Communications Plan”, purchase a duffel bag /storage bin and stock up on specific items for your “Go Kit” and “Stay Kit”).

Make a plan for your continued health during any emergency. Maintain a current list of prescription medication and over the counter drugs that are used by family members. Along with the record, document the drug name, dose and the store where you obtain them. Include vitamins, lotions and other as needed pharmacy products, special treatments or medical equipment. Keep a copy of the instructions for medical devices and the service provider. Keep this with your plan.

Medications may expire. The City of Oak Creek has a medication collection program for residents. This includes expired or non-used prescription medication in the original container (remove your name from the bottle) and over the counter drugs, ointments, sprays, inhalers, creams and pet medication. Bring them to the Oak Creek Police Department Monday thru Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

CONTINUE TO BUILD YOUR KITS

The “*Item of the Month*” for July is medication. Include any prescription medications, non prescription medications like aspirin (do not give to children) and non-aspirin pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids for stomach upset, allergy medication, laxatives, vitamins, lotions, creams, and/or other pharmacy items for your “Go Kit” and “Stay Kit”. Have all medications properly labeled. It is recommended to maintain a seven day supply.

Remember to rotate the supplies and update medical information every six months.

BE INFORMED

Utility Shut-off and Safety

In the event of a disaster, **you may be instructed** to shut off the utility service at your home. Listen for instructions on your battery powered radio.

Below is some general guidance for shutting off utility service:

- Modify the information provided to reflect your shut off requirements as directed by your utility company.

Natural Gas

Natural gas leaks and explosions are responsible for a significant number of fires following disasters. It is vital that all household members know how to shut off natural gas.

Because there are different gas shut-off procedures for different gas meter configurations, it is important to contact your local gas company for guidance on preparation and response regarding gas appliances and gas service to your home.

When you learn the proper shut-off procedure for your meter, share the information with everyone in your household. Be sure not to actually turn off the gas when practicing the proper gas shut-off procedure.

If you smell gas (rotten eggs) or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and get everyone out quickly. Turn off the gas, using the outside main valve if you can, and call the gas company from a neighbor's home.

CAUTION - If you turn off the gas for any reason, a qualified professional must turn it back on. NEVER attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.

Water

Water quickly becomes a precious resource following many disasters. It is vital that all household members learn how to shut off the water at the main house valve.

- Cracked lines may pollute the water supply to your house. It is wise to shut off your water until you hear from authorities that it is safe for drinking.
- The effects of gravity may drain the water in your hot water heater and toilet tanks unless you trap it in your house by shutting off the main house valve (not the street valve in the cement box at the curb—this valve is extremely difficult to turn and requires a special tool).

Preparing to Shut Off Water

- Locate the shut-off valve for the water line that enters your house. It may look like the sample pictured here.
- Make sure this valve can be completely shut off. Your valve may be rusted open, or it may only partially close. Replace it if necessary.
- Label this valve with a tag for easy identification, and make sure all household members know where it is located.

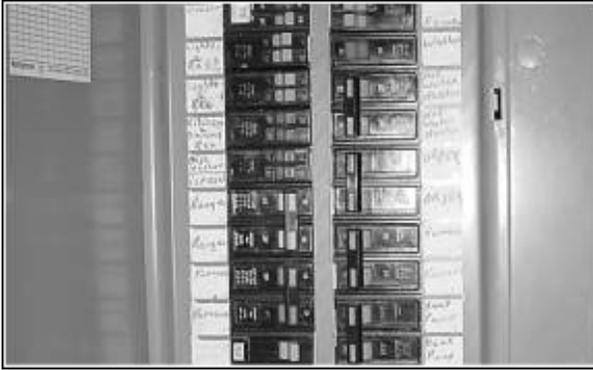


Electricity

Electrical sparks have the potential of igniting natural gas if it is leaking. It is wise to teach all responsible household members where and how to shut off the electricity.

Preparing to Shut Off Electricity

- Locate your electricity circuit box.
- Teach all responsible household members how to shut off the electricity to the entire house.



FOR YOUR SAFETY:
Always shut off all the
individual circuits
before shutting off the
main circuit breaker.