

City of Cuero

Residents reminded to always be prepared for an emergency

The City of Cuero wants to remind residents to “understand, plan and act” by being prepared in case of any emergency. Creating a family plan and emergency supply kits to always have ready at home are two important steps residents can take to remain prepared for emergencies.

Residents should plan in advance what to do in an emergency. It is important to be prepared to assess the situation, use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and your loved ones. Think about the places where your family spends time: school, work and other places you frequent. Ask about their emergency plans. Find out how you will communicate with your loved ones during an emergency. Finally, if your home does not have an emergency plan, consider helping develop one.

Every home should have an emergency supply kit with provisions to last for at least six days in case roads are closed or utilities are out of service. Residents should consider making two kits – one to keep at home, the other to take in case leaving home is necessary. The second kit could be a smaller version of the first kit and packed in backpack or duffle bag. An emergency plan should include some of the following:

- Important documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records stored in a waterproof, portable container.
- One gallon of water per person per day for drinking, and extra water for sanitation purposes.
- Prescription medications.
- First aid kit including non-prescription drugs, bandages, adhesive tape, antiseptic wipes, scissors and tweezers.
- A battery-operated radio and flashlights with plenty of extra batteries.
- Toilet paper, disinfectant towelettes, plastic garbage bags and household chlorine bleach.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- Extra clothing and sturdy shoes or work boots.
- Basic tools including wrenches to turn off household gas and water.
- Matches in a waterproof container.

The best way for you to be safe is to be as prepared as possible for any potential disaster.

Prepare a kit in emergency situations

When preparing for a possible emergency situation, the City of Cuero wants to remind residents to think first about the basics of survival by preparing a kit for your home, car and work.

Recommended items to include in a basic emergency supply kit:

☐ **Water**

- One gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation.
- Children, nursing mothers, and sick people may need more water.
- Store water tightly in clean plastic containers such as soft drink bottles.
- Keep at least a three-day supply of water per person.

☐ **Food**

- Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water.
- Pack a manual can opener and eating utensils.
- Choose foods your family will eat such as:
 - o Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
 - o Protein or fruit bars
 - o Dry cereal or granola
 - o Peanut butter
 - o Dried fruit
 - o Nuts and crackers
 - o Canned juices
 - o Non-perishable pasteurized milk
 - o High energy foods
 - o Vitamins
 - o Food for infants
 - o Comfort/stress foods

☐ **Other items**

- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both.
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid Kit

Non-life threatening injuries:

During an emergency, you or a family member can be cut, burned, or suffer other injuries; however, many injuries are not life threatening and do not require immediate medical attention. Knowing how to treat minor injuries can make a difference in an emergency.

The following items can help stop bleeding, prevent infection and assist in decontamination:

- Two pairs of latex or other type of sterile gloves.
- Sterile dressings to stop bleeding.
- Cleansing agent/soap and antibiotic towelettes to disinfect.
- Antibiotic ointment to prevent infection.
- Burn ointment to prevent infection.
- Adhesive bandages in a variety of sizes.
- Eye wash solution to flush the eyes or as general decontaminant.
- Thermometer
- Prescription medications you take every day such as insulin, heart medicine and asthma inhalers.
- Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment and supplies.

Non-prescription drugs:

- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid (for upset stomach)
- Laxative

Other items:

- Cell Phone
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Whistle to signal for help
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food
- Local maps

Special Needs Items

Remember the special needs of infants, the elderly, persons with disabilities and even your pets.

For baby:

- Formula
- Diapers
- Bottles
- Powdered milk
- Medications
- Moist towelettes
- Diaper rash ointment

For seniors:

- Teach others how to operate necessary equipment.
- Label equipment like wheelchairs, canes or walkers.
- List of prescription medications including dosage in your supply kits. Include any allergies.
- Extra pair of eyeglasses and hearing-aid batteries.
- Extra wheelchair batteries or other special equipment in your supply kit.
- A list of the style and serial numbers of medical devices such as pacemakers in your emergency supply kits.
- Copies of medical insurance and Medicare cards.
- List of doctors and emergency contacts.

For people with Disabilities:

- Create a support network to help in an emergency and tell them where you keep your emergency supplies.
- Give one member of your support network a key to your house or apartment.
- Wear medical alert tags or bracelets to help identify your disability.
- If you are dependent on dialysis or other life sustaining treatment, know the location and availability of more than one facility.
- Show others how to operate your wheelchair.
- Know the size and weight of your wheelchair and if it is collapsible, in case it has to be transported.
- Prescription medicines, list of medications including dosage, list of any allergies.
- Extra eyeglasses, hearing aid batteries and cane.
- Extra wheelchair batteries and oxygen.
- Scooter or wheelchair patch kit, extra inner tubes and other repair supplies. Also include heavy gloves for wheeling over glass and debris.
- Keep a list of the style and serial number of medical devices.
- Medical insurance and Medicare cards.
- List of doctors, relatives or friends who should be notified if you are hurt.

Other items to consider:

- Pads and pencils for communication and/or to keep track of instructions you may receive
- Power converter for communicating with a lap top computer
- Animal supplies such as extra food, water and other supplies.

Shelter Information for Hurricane Ike Evacuees

As the Texas prepares for Hurricane Ike to make landfall, the City of Cuero wants to remind individuals to be prepared and know what to do in case of an evacuation from their jurisdiction.

Individuals evacuating to the San Antonio area should go to Port San Antonio, located at 143 Billy Mitchell Blvd. to register for a shelter. Individuals evacuating also should make sure they are financially prepared to return to their jurisdiction following the storm.

The Red Cross recommends that individuals evacuating should assemble the following emergency supplies to take with them:

- Clothing for your family for several days.
- Bedding, pillows and towels.
- Prescription and emergency medication and spare eyeglasses
- Soap and toiletries.
- Checkbook, credit cards and cash.
- Driver's license and identification cards
- A portable radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Specialty items for children and infants such as baby food, diapers, formula, toys
- Specialty items for elderly and disabled

Individuals should keep in mind that evacuation shelters are meant to be short term shelters, at least 12 to 24 hours until the storm passes.

When evacuating from their homes, persons also should:

- Be prepared to secure their home, office or property before they depart.
- Fuel their vehicle and make sure the vehicle is running properly.
- Decide where to go (friends, hotels, shelters) if an evacuation is ordered.
- Be sure to have financial resources to return to your jurisdiction.

For individuals evacuating with pets, an evacuation shelter has been set up at Stinson Airport, located off 99th street and Roosevelt Drive in Hangar 80. The shelter is staffed 24 hours a day to care for and take in pets from evacuees. When bringing a pet to the shelter, individuals will enter the intake area where they fill out some paperwork and have a picture taken with their pets. The pets are vaccinated and examined by medical staff before being placed in their kennels. Evacuees can visit their pets during the duration of the event. Shelter also will be available at Freeman Coliseum for more pets as well as livestock.

Being prepared is the first step in staying safe during an emergency situation. Citizens are advised to tune to local radio or television stations for information regarding a possible evacuation from the area and appropriate evacuation routes.

Individuals can visit www.sanantonio.gov for information on San Antonio area hotel accommodations, emergency preparedness tips and volunteer opportunities.

Directions to the Port San Antonio Reception Center:

- Head North on I-37 N near Donop Road – 9.2 miles
- Take exit #139 to merge on to IH-10 West/ US-90 West – 2.1 miles
- Continue on US-90 West – 1.5 miles
- Take General Hudnell Dr/ Port San Antonio exit - .4 miles
- Merge onto General Hudnell South – 1.8 miles
- General Hudnell South will become Duncan Dr. at Billy Mitchell Rd. Continue on Duncan Dr. – 0.6 miles
- The Reception Center located at Duncan Drive and Clarence Tinker Dr.
- Please watch for updates on Trans Guide and road signs along your route and follow instructions of police traffic officers.

Residents should be prepared in the event of flooding

City of Cuero is encouraging local residents to be prepared in the event of heavy rain and potential flooding. Taking precaution will keep your families and property safe.

Before a flood residents should:

- Elevate furnaces, water heaters and electric panels if they are susceptible to flooding.
- Install check valves in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of their homes.
- Barriers such as levees, beams and floodwalls should be installed to stop floodwater from entering. Finally, basements should be sealed with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage.

During a flood residents should:

- Stay away from flood-prone areas such as low-water crossings, dips and ditches and never drive through flood waters or on flooded roads.
- As little as six inches of water can cause loss of control and possible stalling. If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- A foot of water will float most vehicles and as little as two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including SUVs and pick-up trucks. In this case, the driver only has few seconds to escape.
- If there is any possibility of a flash flood, residents should disconnect electrical appliances and move essential items to an upper level floor.
- Residents should also be prepared to move immediately to higher ground. If you must leave your home, do not walk through moving water as you can be swept away.
- Stay away from downed power lines and return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.