

S A F E T Y N O T E S

September 2013

SEPTEMBER: NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH



Plan Now. Work Together. Be Ready.

Summer news coverage brought graphic images of individuals and communities impacted by large-scale disasters, from floods to wildfires. The Department of Emergency Management has partnered with multiple agencies over the past nine years to motivate every American to “get ready” before an emergency becomes a disaster.

The main message continues to be:

- Stay informed about potential emergencies and become knowledgeable about appropriate responses.
www.Ready.gov/be-informed
- Make a family (and building-wide) emergency plan.
www.Ready.gov/make-a-plan
- Build a kit that will help you (and your pets) manage at least 3 days without regular access to everyday supplies (e.g. water, food, medicine). www.Ready.gov/build-a-kit.
- Get involved in your neighborhood with this nationwide campaign.
www.Ready.gov/get-involved



Over the years, current emergency preparedness information and practical tips have become readily available to those with internet access. Locally, you can access spokaneprepares.org for preparedness information and tools to help you accomplish a workable plan tailored to your particular needs.

For most people, it is difficult enough to keep day-to-day requirements in balance, let alone try to prepare for a “maybe-it-might-happen” community crisis. The challenge: how do you translate “preparedness” from a good idea to a completed task? Break the task down into manageable units: (a) Take advantage of current back-to school sales to find backpacks or dorm storage containers suitable for “To Go Kits” and “Shelter in Place Kits”; (b) Print the calendar/shopping list at spokaneprepares.org/ Personal Preparedness to facilitate slowly-but-surely compiling the materials you need; (c) Include readiness reminders and information on renter’s insurance in monthly rent notices.

In multi-family apartment complexes there are additional concerns for persons who may be more vulnerable in an emergency situation, e.g. those with limited mobility, persons requiring oxygen, latchkey kids, individuals who would not be able to hear emergency warnings or who speak a language other than English. Again check out spokaneprepares.org to learn more about “Access and Functional Needs” and to download a copy of the Spokane Regional Health District’s “infographic” indicating the AFN demographics and service sites for our community.

Help your tenants and colleagues increase their resiliency quotient. If you would like to get involved in the Spokane Committee on Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Access and Functional Needs, please contact Jan Doherty at Spokane Fire Department, 509.625.7058.

KNOX BOX ALERT

A medical emergency was further complicated this past summer for a patient living in an apartment complex serving a senior population.

Since the master key for the Knox Box did NOT work in the resident’s lock, the paramedics could not immediately get into the unit. Fortunately, this did not become a “life or death” call. However, it serves as a critical reminder that ALL of the master keys in EVERY Knox Box should be current and labeled! In large complexes, two master keys are kept in the Knox Box to facilitate multiple fire crews who may have to evacuate the building.

If you have any question regarding your Knox Box, please call Spokane Fire Department’s Prevention Division at 509.625.7000.



You can sign up for this monthly newsletter, ask a fire-related question or suggest a specific safety topic by contacting Jan Doherty at jdoherly@spokanefire.org or by calling 509.625.7058.



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