

Prepare in a Year – May 2010

This is the fifth of a series of short action articles that will enable you, over the next 12 months, to better take care of your family, friends, neighbors, and yourself in times of disaster. After a disaster, you will need to resume your financial affairs and, perhaps, submit applications for assistance; documents play a major role. Copies of insurance papers (home, auto, boat, etc.) and agent contact phone numbers plus photos of damages can expedite processing of any claims. Medical and dental policies and ID cards can speed treatment. Copies of financial account documents as well as wills, powers-of-attorney can help with your longer term recovery. Your cell phone or computer may not be available so it may be useful to have a list of important phone numbers for work, schools, etc. for family, friends, and relatives. A safe deposit box in a bank might be a good storage option; or closer to home place documents in a plastic bag and put in your freezer. Yes, freezer contents can normally survive house fires. If you have been acting upon these preparation articles; you are well on your way to mitigating the consequences of disasters that will affect your family.

Prepare in a Year – June 2010

This is the sixth of a series of short action articles that will enable you, over the next 12 months, to better take care of your family, friends, neighbors, and yourself in times of disaster. There is no guarantee that the 72 hour emergency kit recommended in the April article will be enough if the consequences of a disaster are extended. Consider supplemental supplies and make a checklist. Useful items include: extra flashlights and batteries, camp lantern, sleeping bags, rain gear, camp stove, battery powered radio, pet needs, etc. Never cook with charcoal in an enclosed space. Pets have modest needs and some, especially dogs, seem to enjoy drinking from the toilet bowl. Food is a major, easily satisfied requirement. Be aware of rising temperatures of frozen and refrigerated foods. When in doubt; throw it out. Canned foods are ready to eat uncooked, cold is safe, and most household have reasonable supplies. Individualize and amend your list and keep it handy (in hard copy.) If you have been acting upon these preparation articles; you are well on your way to mitigating the consequences of disasters that will affect your family.