
BACKGROUND

2008PSSG0028-000694
May 3, 2008

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

THREE BASIC STEPS TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The three basic steps to emergency preparedness are:

- **Make a plan** that outlines potential risks in your home, workplace and community. Include a list of out-of-town contacts, temporary accommodations and emergency pick-up for school or daycare. Most importantly, have a family evacuation plan and practise it at least once a year.
- **Make a kit.** This should include a flashlight, batteries, candles, waterproof matches, a first-aid kit, a battery-operated or wind-up radio, a whistle, a pocket knife, medical prescriptions, an extra set of keys, money, copies of important documents, a change of clothing for each family member, blankets, sleeping bags, canned food and a three-day supply of water for each person. Some good places to store a kit at home are under a bed, in a closet, behind drapes, in a garage or in a garbage can – any place that is cool, dry and dark, but easily accessible.
- **Be informed** about the risks in your area and what to do in case of floods, earthquakes, severe storms, power failures or any other potential hazards. Check your insurance to make sure you have adequate coverage for the range of risks in your community.

For more information on emergency preparedness, including a checklist of items that should be included in an emergency kit, visit the Provincial Emergency Program website at www.pep.bc.ca online.

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