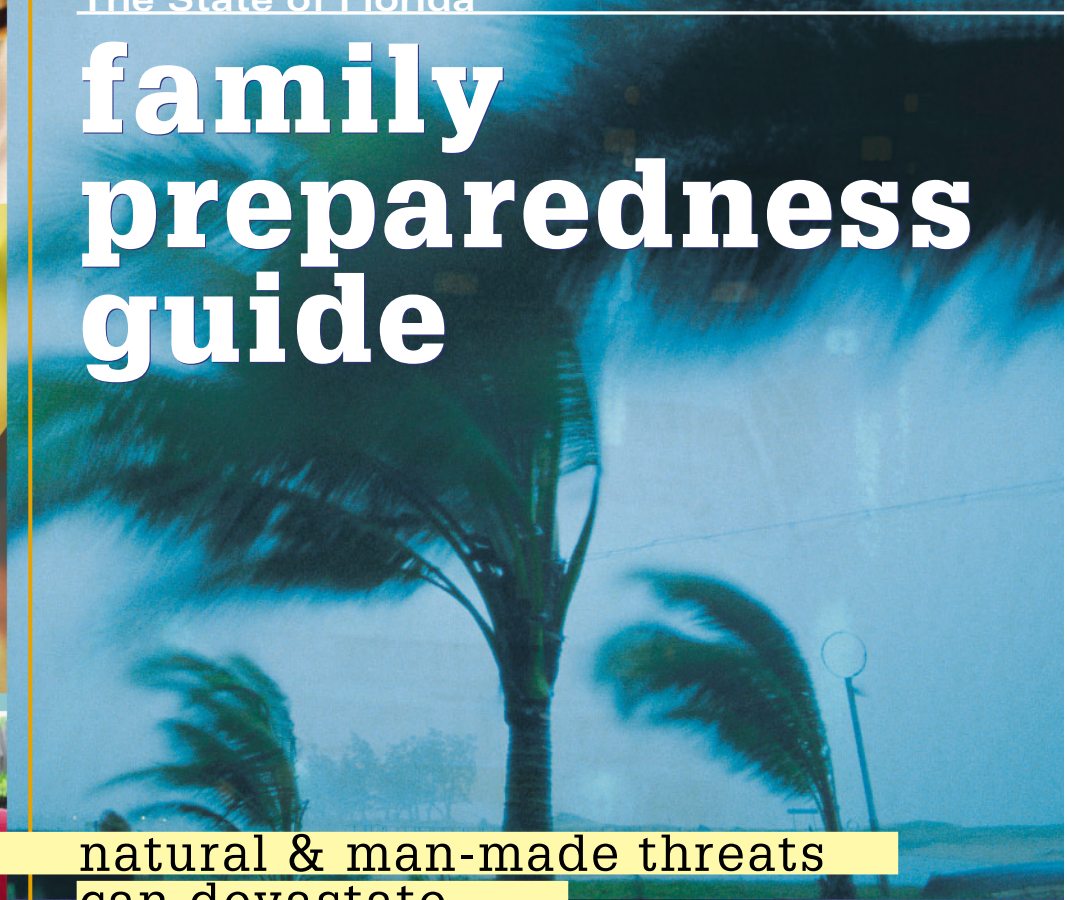


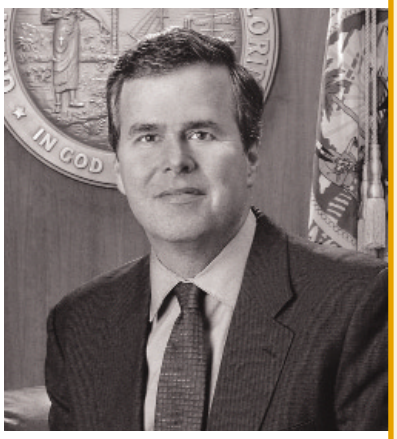
The State of Florida

family preparedness guide

natural & man-made threats can devastate entire communities

Make sure your plans protect your family and take into consideration the needs of everyone you love. Be prepared by seeking help before a disaster strikes your community, your home and your family.

governor jeb bush



The State of Florida, through the Department of Health, has prepared this reference tool in case emergencies arise in our state. Since September 11, 2001 put our country on guard, Florida has made every effort to arm citizens and visitors with the information they need in case our state falls under attack.

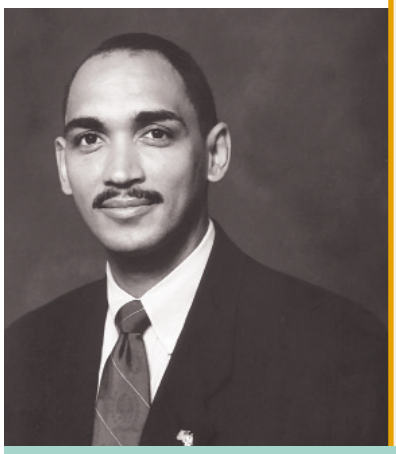
Florida is experienced in dealing with emergency situations. This state is no stranger to extreme weather conditions like hurricanes, floods, tornados and wildfires. However, the terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., sparked a new set of challenges—man-made threats. While we did not anticipate the attacks that tragic day, we have been able to use them as a tool, to expect the unexpected and prepare for it.

The goal of the Family Preparedness Guide is to arm you with resources and information you may need should Florida encounter a natural or man-made threat.

Please take a few minutes to review this guide with your family. I urge you to take the necessary steps to prepare your home in case of a disaster. By doing so, your family will be better prepared to handle whatever emergency arises.

I assure you that your state leaders are taking every precaution necessary to protect you, your families and your homes. I am counting on you to join us in these efforts so Florida is ready to handle anything.

secretary john o. agwunobi, m.d., m.b.a.



The Florida Department of Health continues working daily to ensure the health and safety of our state's residents and visitors. Extreme weather has wreaked havoc on our state and forced large-scale evacuations in the past. Recently, our nation has endured unprecedented tragedies that have brought us to a greater level of awareness.

Given the current status of war against terrorism and other potential global events, we continue to believe it is prudent to prepare aggressively.

The natural and man-made threats described in the Family Preparedness Guide may sound unlikely or even frightening. I asked that this valuable preparedness tool be developed and distributed so everyone can have the opportunity to learn, plan and prepare.

In facing the possibility of a threat on a daily basis, it is important to prepare mentally by being alert rather than afraid. Also, familiarize yourself with community services and your neighbors. Get to know who in your neighborhood may need extra help during an emergency, and become proactive by focusing on any action that can be taken now.

It is my hope that we never face such devastation. But the time to prepare for disaster is before it happens. Please make time today to read and follow the suggestions contained inside, and then create your own Family Plan for Disasters and Emergencies, and Disaster Supply Kit.

how this guide can help you

Disaster typically gives little warning and can leave confusion and devastation in its wake. The State of Florida, through the Department of Health, has created this Family Preparedness Guide for residents and visitors as a reference and educational tool that includes:

1. Steps for making a **Family Plan for Disasters and Emergencies.**
2. Steps for making a **Disaster Supply Kit**.
3. Advice about **special-needs family members, children** and **pets**.
4. A fill-in **Family Plan for Disasters and Emergencies** (yellow, center pull-out section) that can be pulled out and copied for family members. The pull-out section also includes **contact numbers** for county information and support.
5. Facts about **natural and man-made threats**.

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family plan for disasters & emergencies—
yellow, center pull-out section

making a family plan for disasters & emergencies

For more state and federal information on emergency and disaster planning:

- www.floridadisaster.org
- www.redcross.org
- www.ready.gov
- www.fema.gov

or call your local Red Cross office.

EVALUATE

Identify potential threats in your community, such as the location of flood-prone areas, power plants and hazardous chemicals.

Discuss how natural and man-made threats could affect your family. Evaluate your property's vulnerability to hazards, such as storm surge, flooding, wildfire and wind.

Check your insurance coverage. Flood damage, for example, is not covered by a homeowner's insurance policy. It must be purchased ahead of time to be applicable.

PREPARE

Use this guide as a tool for preparing. Check websites contained in this guide to get more information specific to your family's needs.

Identify the safest areas of your home for each threat. In many circumstances, the safest area may not be your home but elsewhere in your community. During times of evacuation you will be given instructions on evacuation routes.

Specify escape routes from your home and places to meet (rally points), such as a neighbor's home, a school or a public location.

Make a plan for evacuating the area if required. See page 7.

The National Weather Service broadcasts warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day.

Designate an out-of-area contact—friend or family member—so that each of your immediate family members has the same single point of contact. Plan to have at least two means of communication (e.g., email, phone, cell phone).

Make a plan for your pets should you need to evacuate. Most shelters will accept service animals.

Fill out the Family Emergency Information in the yellow, center pull-out section, pages 4–7.

Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.

Weather radios may be purchased at electronic, department or large discount stores.

Assemble and maintain a Disaster Supply Kit. See pages 3–6 and center pull-out section. A battery-powered weather radio equipped with a special alarm tone feature is a vital tool. During an emergency, National Weather Service forecasters will interrupt routine weather radio programming and send out the special tone that activates weather radios in the listening area.

Take first aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.

MONITOR & ACT

When a disaster occurs, **listen to news sources** for information and instructions.

Evacuate or seek medical attention quickly if authorities tell you to do so. If you can get no information, determine as best you can if you are in a danger area. Whether you stay or evacuate, **don't panic.** Follow your family plan.

making a disaster supply kit

A Disaster Supply Kit for your home, and for use during an evacuation, should include items in six basic areas: (1) water, (2) food, (3) first aid supplies and medications, (4) clothing and bedding, (5) tools and emergency supplies, and (6) important family documents. A checklist for items is in the yellow, center pull-out section, pages 2–3.

For additional supply guidelines for special-needs individuals, children, and pets, see pages 4–6.

You will need the kit's supplies if you are confined to your home. They also are valuable if you evacuate to a place other than a well-stocked shelter, or if you're unsure of the shelter's supplies.

TIPS FOR MAKING YOUR KIT

- **Keep loose items in airtight plastic bags.**
- **Gather the kit's items in easy-to-carry containers or duffel bags. Put them within reach, near the exit you use most often.**
- **Check and update your kit and family needs at least once a year.**

TIPS FOR WATER & FOOD

1. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water daily. Heat and intense activity can double this amount. Children, nursing mothers, and those with special needs may require more.
2. Food preparation and sanitation require another two quarts per person per day.
3. Purchased bottled water that has been sealed is best for storage. It meets FDA guidelines for food, is not as vulnerable to temperature changes as unsealed water, and has no shelf life. (Some bottles do have expiration dates, but this is mainly for inventory control.)
4. Choose compact, lightweight foods that do not require refrigeration, cooking or preparation, and foods that use little or no water.
5. If you must heat food, pack cans of chafing fuel such as Sterno.

disaster preparation for families with special needs

Those who have family members with special needs must take extra measures to ensure their preparedness. The following are suggestions from the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Families with special needs must carefully assess their options. They should ask themselves the following questions:

- **Can we manage the entire needs of our family for three days with little or no outside assistance?**
- **Can we meet any crisis or emergency on our own for that period of time?**
- **Can we make decisions concerning our special needs without consultation or help for three days?**
- **Do we have the supplies and equipment to meet our special needs for three days?**

If the answer is "no" to any of the above questions, families must seriously consider evacuation from their homes in the event of a disaster. Advance preparation should include how to evacuate and where to relocate. Many areas have "special needs shelters" that are equipped with medical staff and specialized equipment. In your preparation, check the shelters in your area and become familiar with their locations, procedures and policies concerning how many people are allowed to accompany the family member with special needs.

For more information about shelters, call your local Red Cross office, or contact your local county emergency management office to preregister for a special needs shelter. See page 8 in the yellow, center pull-out section for helpful county phone numbers.

Preparation is the key to surviving a disaster and managing any chaos that may follow. Families with special needs must take stock of their ability to manage and must plan for extra supplies in their Disaster Supply Kits.

SUPPLIES TO CONSIDER FOR SPECIAL NEEDS INDIVIDUALS

- ☐ **for respirators, other electric-dependent medical equipment or oxygen—make prior arrangements with your physician or check with your oxygen supplier about emergency plans**
- ☐ **two-week stock of disposable supplies such as dressings, nasal cannulas, suction catheters, etc.**
- ☐ **two-week supply of medications, prescription and non-prescription**
- ☐ **electrical backup for medical equipment**
- ☐ **copies of prescriptions for medical equipment, supplies and medications—ask your physician or pharmacist about proper storing of prescription medications**
- ☐ **contact lenses and supplies**
- ☐ **extra eyeglasses**
- ☐ **extra batteries for hearing aids, communication devices**

children's issues

Assemble a kit for your children. Some suggested items:

- ☐ **a few favorite books**
- ☐ **crayons and paper**
- ☐ **two favorite small toys, such as a doll or action figure**
- ☐ **board game**
- ☐ **deck of cards**
- ☐ **puzzles**
- ☐ **favorite stuffed animal**
- ☐ **favorite blanket or pillow**
- ☐ **pictures of family and pets**
- ☐ **other special items that will comfort children**

Children's fears can stem from their imaginations, and adults should take these feelings seriously. Words and actions can provide reassurance to a child who feels afraid. When talking to your child, be sure to present a realistic picture that is both honest and manageable.

Be aware that after a disaster, children most fear that:

- **They will be separated from family.**
- **The event will happen again.**
- **Someone will be injured or killed.**
- **They will be left alone.**

ADVICE FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS ON COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN ABOUT DISASTER

In response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) offered some advice on communicating with children and adolescents during times of crisis.

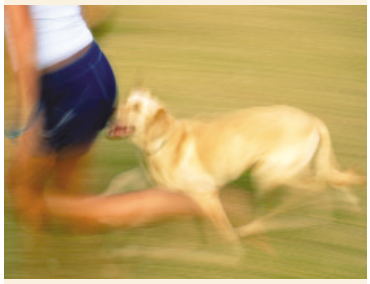
It is important to communicate to children that the family circle is strong. Children need to be assured by their parents that the family is safe. Adolescents, in particular, can be hard hit by this type of disaster. Parents may watch for signs such as sleep disturbances, fatigue, lack of pleasure in activities previously enjoyed, and illicit substance abuse.

Overexposure to the media can be traumatizing. It is best not to let children or adolescents repeatedly view footage of traumatic events. Children and adolescents should not view these events alone.

Adults need to help children understand the emergency or disaster. Discussion is critical. In the event of a man-made disaster, stress that a terrorist act is one of desperation and horror. Explain it to your children in a simple way like, "There are bad people out there who do bad things. But no one group of people is all bad."

More information is available at www.aap.org.

pet safety



The following pet safety information has been compiled from sources including the Humane Society of the United States in cooperation with the Red Cross.

HAVE A SAFE PLACE TO TAKE YOUR PETS

Red Cross disaster shelters cannot accept pets because of health and safety regulations and other considerations. Service animals are the only animals allowed in Red Cross shelters. It may be difficult to find shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead.

Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size and species. Ask if "no pet" policies could be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of "pet-friendly" places, including phone numbers with other disaster information.

Ask others outside your area whether they could shelter your animals. Also, prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour phone numbers. Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets during a disaster. Animal shelters may be overburdened caring for the animals they already have, so this should be your last resort.

Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured, lost or killed.

Pets are not allowed in most shelters. Plan ahead of time.

ASSEMBLE A PORTABLE PET DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy waterproof containers that can be carried easily. Your pet disaster supply kit should include:

- ☐ **medications (heartworm, flea prevention), medical records (records of Coggins test for horses, rabies/ vaccination certificates for other pets)**
- ☐ **registration records, microchip/tattoo information**
- ☐ **first aid kit**
- ☐ **sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers big enough for your pet to stand up and turn around**
- ☐ **pet beds and toys, if easily transportable**
- ☐ **current photos of pets**
- ☐ **food and drinkable water for three days, bowls, can opener**
- ☐ **cat litter/pan**
- ☐ **information on feeding schedule, medical conditions, behavior problems, and name and number of veterinarian in case you have to foster or board animals**

For more information, visit these websites:

- American Veterinary Medical Association www.avma.org
- Pet Preparedness www.floridadisaster.org
- Humane Society of the United States www.hsus.org.

LARGE ANIMALS

Owners of large animals, such as horses or cattle, should prepare an Animal Safety Plan according to specific needs. Talk to your veterinarian or animal handler, and check online resources for more information.

evacuation

When you are in an unfamiliar building, be aware of exit locations. At work, know your office evacuation plan.

In your Family Plan for Disasters and Emergencies, map out your route to shelters or to locations out of the area. Be familiar with alternate routes. Remember local meeting places, often called "rally points," and an out-of-town contact in case family members are separated (see pages 5–6 in the yellow, center pull-out section).

If you have children in schools, familiarize yourself with their emergency plans and where students are to be sent if an evacuation is announced.

- **Monitor news media for instructions about evacuation. If told to evacuate, do so quickly.**
- **Follow evacuation route instructions.**
- **Bring your Disaster Supply Kit.**
- **Keep your vehicle filled with at least a half tank of gas at all times. Never store additional gasoline in your home, vehicle or shed.**
- **If you don't have a vehicle, plan another way to leave.**
- **Lock your house. Leave a note in a sealed envelope marked "emergency information" in an obvious location. Include when you left, where you are going, and contact numbers.**
- **Check on the elderly, who may need your assistance and reassurance.**
- **Enact your Pet Safety Plan.**

If time allows:

- **Call or email your out-of-area contact about your plans.**
- **If your home is damaged and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving. Be familiar with the location of shut-off valves before a disaster. If you turn off the gas, a professional must turn it back on. Do not attempt to do this yourself.**
- **Check with neighbors who may need assistance and/or rides.**

natural threats—what you need to know

Floods

Hurricanes

Wildfires

FLOODS

Are you in a floodplain? Do you have adequate insurance? Flood facts and tips:

- As little as one foot of moving water can move most cars off the road.
- Just six inches of fast-moving floodwater can sweep a person off his or her feet.
- Do not wade through or allow children to play in floodwaters.
- Do not attempt to drive on flooded roads or bridges.
- Listen to the National Weather Service on your weather radio and monitor local media for flood watches and warnings.
- For flood insurance call the National Flood Insurance Program at 1-800-427-4661. Remember, flood damage is not covered by a homeowner's insurance policy. It must be purchased separately and ahead of time to be applicable.

If you are dependent upon or use well water and/or septic tanks, take precautions during and after a flood event. For more information visit www.doh.state.fl.us (subjects: drinking water and sewage, onsite) or contact your local county health department.

HURRICANES & RELATED THREATS: STORM SURGE, INLAND FLOODING, HIGH WINDS, TORNADOS, SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

Do you live on the coast or in a low-lying, flood-prone area? Is your home equipped to withstand hurricane-force winds in excess of 74 miles per hour?

- Make sure your home has a wall-to-foundation connection (anchor bolts/re-bar).
- Reinforce the garage door and tracks with center supports.
- Brace all gable end framing with horizontal and vertical beams.
- Strap rafters/trusses to walls with hurricane straps or clips.
- Cover windows and doors with securely fastened, impact-resistant shutters using proper mounting fixtures.

Hurricane season is June 1–Nov. 30

- "Watch"—hurricane conditions could be present within 36 hours.
- "Warning"—hurricane force winds could be present within 24 hours.

Do you have a safe room? Do you have a pre-identified safe shelter if you must evacuate?

- A safe room in the house should have no or small exterior openings.
- The home of a friend or family member outside the threatened area is ideal.
- Know where local shelters are located.
- Leave with adequate time to get there—roadways likely will be crowded.

family plan for disasters & emergencies

This is a pull-out section for your family's personal information. Take time to complete, and then make copies so each family member has easy access to this information at home, work, school, etc.

Some online sources of food and water safety information:

- Food Safety www.foodsafety.gov/~fsg/fsgadvic.html
- USDA Food Safety and Consumer Information www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/consedu.htm
- FightBAC!® www.fightbac.org/main.cfm
- FDA Bad Bug Book vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~mow/intro.html
- CDC Health Topics www.cdc.gov

WATER & FOOD

Pack a three-day supply.

- ☐ one gallon of water per person per day
- ☐ ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
- ☐ staples (salt, sugar, pepper, spices, etc.)
- ☐ powdered milk
- ☐ canned juices
- ☐ high-energy snacks
- ☐ comfort/stress foods
- ☐ food for infants
- ☐ food for individuals with special needs
- ☐ Pedialyte (to restore hydration if needed)
- ☐ mess kits or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- ☐ non-electric can opener, utility knife

TOOLS & EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

- ☐ family preparedness guide
- ☐ cash or traveler's checks, coins
- ☐ map of the area for locating shelters
- ☐ battery-operated radio, extra batteries
- ☐ flashlight, extra batteries
- ☐ fire extinguisher: small canister ABC type
- ☐ pliers
- ☐ compass
- ☐ signal flare
- ☐ whistle
- ☐ shut-off wrench to turn off household water and/or gas
- ☐ tube tent
- ☐ plastic sheeting
- ☐ plastic storage containers
- ☐ plastic bucket with tight lid
- ☐ plastic garbage bags and ties for sanitation
- ☐ tape (duct, masking)
- ☐ candles
- ☐ matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ paper, pencil
- ☐ needles, thread
- ☐ medicine dropper
- ☐ aluminum foil
- ☐ toilet paper, towelettes
- ☐ towels
- ☐ soap, liquid detergent
- ☐ disinfectant
- ☐ household chlorine bleach
- ☐ feminine supplies
- ☐ personal hygiene items
- ☐ infant supplies (diapers, bottles, pacifiers)

CLOTHING & BEDDING

Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person.

- ☐ sturdy shoes, work boots, hats, gloves
- ☐ rain gear
- ☐ blankets or sleeping bags
- ☐ extra prescription glasses, sunglasses

FIRST AID KIT

Assemble a first aid kit containing these items for your home and one for each car. Keep ready a three-day supply of each person's vital medications to include in the kit.

- ☐ prescription drugs
- ☐ sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- ☐ 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4–6)
- ☐ 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4–6)
- ☐ 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- ☐ 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- ☐ triangular bandages (3)
- ☐ latex gloves (at least 2 pair)
- ☐ cleansing agent, soap and moistened towelettes
- ☐ antiseptic
- ☐ petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- ☐ assorted sizes of safety pins
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ tweezers
- ☐ needle
- ☐ thermometer
- ☐ tongue depressors (2)
- ☐ non-prescription drugs
  - aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
  - anti-diarrhea medication
  - antacid
  - laxative
  - antibiotic ointment
- ☐ syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)
- ☐ activated charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center)
- ☐ sunscreen
- ☐ mosquito repellent

Consider making a personal workplace disaster supply kit. For more on creating this, visit the Red Cross online source at www.redcross.org/services/disaster/be prepared/workkit.html

To dial into your local State Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222.

IMPORTANT FAMILY DOCUMENTS

Keep copies of records in a waterproof, portable container.

- ☐ a completed copy of this yellow, pull-out section
- ☐ wills
- ☐ insurance policies
- ☐ contracts and deeds
- ☐ stocks and bonds
- ☐ Social Security cards
- ☐ passports
- ☐ immunization records
- ☐ bank account numbers
- ☐ credit card account numbers and company names and telephone numbers
- ☐ inventory of valuable household goods
- ☐ family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- ☐ current photographs of family members

family emergency information

LOCAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS

See page 8 of this section for a list of county health departments and county emergency management phone numbers.

POLICE EMERGENCY (911)

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

AMBULANCE

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

LOCAL RED CROSS

LOCAL SHELTERS

FAMILY MEMBERS

Be sure to keep on hand in a safe and secure place, Social Security numbers of friends and family who are part of your Family Plan for Disasters and Emergencies.

NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
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NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE
NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	BLOOD TYPE

FAMILY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NAME WORK HOME CELL

NAME WORK HOME CELL

NAME WORK HOME CELL

NAME WORK HOME CELL

NAME WORK HOME CELL

NAME WORK HOME CELL

CHILD/ADULT CARE PHONE

CHILD/ADULT CARE PHONE

CHILD'S SCHOOL PHONE

CHILD'S SCHOOL PHONE

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS/NUMBERS

NAME PHONE

NAME PHONE

NAME PHONE

NAME PHONE

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACTS/NUMBERS

1
NAME PHONE

2
NAME PHONE

3
NAME PHONE

4
NAME PHONE

RALLY POINTS

1

IN HOMETOWN | PHONE | OUT OF TOWN | PHONE

2

IN HOMETOWN | PHONE | OUT OF TOWN | PHONE

3

IN HOMETOWN | PHONE | OUT OF TOWN | PHONE

4

IN HOMETOWN | PHONE | OUT OF TOWN | PHONE

MEDICAL INFORMATION

DOCTOR | NUMBER

DOCTOR | NUMBER

DOCTOR | NUMBER

DENTIST | NUMBER

DENTIST | NUMBER

PHARMACY | NUMBER

VETERINARIAN | NUMBER

NAME | MEDICATION

NAME | MEDICATION

NAME | MEDICATION

NAME | MEDICATION

NAME | MEDICATION

NAME | MEDICATION

NAME | MEDICATION

NAME | MEDICATION

NAME | MEDICATION

NAME ALLERGIES SPECIAL CONDITIONS

NAME ALLERGIES SPECIAL CONDITIONS

NAME ALLERGIES SPECIAL CONDITIONS

INSURANCE RECORDS

COMPANY NAME COVERAGE POLICY NUMBER

DATE ISSUED EXPIRATION DATE

AGENT NAME PHONE

COMPANY NAME COVERAGE POLICY NUMBER

DATE ISSUED EXPIRATION DATE

AGENT NAME PHONE

COMPANY NAME COVERAGE POLICY NUMBER

DATE ISSUED EXPIRATION DATE

AGENT NAME PHONE

COMPANY NAME COVERAGE POLICY NUMBER

DATE ISSUED EXPIRATION DATE

AGENT NAME PHONE

COMPANY NAME COVERAGE POLICY NUMBER

DATE ISSUED EXPIRATION DATE

AGENT NAME PHONE

For more information contact your County Health Department listed below. Your local county emergency management office (phone numbers in bold) can help you prepare a family plan by identifying shelters and preregistering for a special needs shelter.

ALACHUA
224 SE 24th St.
Gainesville 32641
(352) 334-7900
(352) 264-6500

BAKER
480 W Lowder St.
Macclenny 32063
(904) 259-6291
(904) 259-6111

BAY
597 W Eleventh St.
Panama City 32401
(850) 872-4720
(850) 784-4030

BRADFORD
1801 N Temple Ave.
Starke 32091
(904) 964-7732
(904) 966-6336

BREVARD
2575 N Courtenay Parkway
Merritt Island 32953
(321) 454-7111
(321) 637-6670

BROWARD
2421-A SW Sixth Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale 33315
(954) 467-4700
(321) 637-6670

CALHOUN
19611 SR 20 W
Blountstown 32424
(850) 674-5645
(850) 674-8075

CHARLOTTE
514 E Grace St.
Punta Gorda 33950
(941) 639-1181/474-3240
(941) 505-4620

CITRUS
3700 W Sovereign Path
Lecanto 34461
(352) 527-1288
(352) 746-6555

CLAY
1305 Idlewild Ave.
Green Cove Springs 32043
(904) 284-6340
(904) 284-7703

COLLIER
3301 Tamiami Trail E, Bldg. H
Naples 34112
(239) 774-8200
(239) 774-8444

COLUMBIA
217 NE Franklin St.
Lake City 32055
(386) 758-1066
(386) 752-8787

DE SOTO
34 S Baldwin Ave.
Arcadia 34266
(863) 993-4601
(863) 993-4831

DIXIE
1530 SE 12th Ave., Airport Rd.
Cross City 32628
(352) 498-1360
(352) 498-1240

DUVAL
515 W Sixth St.
Jacksonville 32206
(904) 630-3300
(904) 630-2472

ESCAMBIA
1295 W Fairfield Dr.
Pensacola 32501
(850) 595-6500
(850) 595-3311

FLAGLER
301 S Lemon St.
Bunnell 32110
(386) 437-7350
(386) 437-7381/7382

FRANKLIN
139 12th St.
Apalachicola 32320
(850) 653-2111
(850) 653-8977

GADSDEN
278 LaSalle Leffall Dr.
Quincy 32353
(850) 875-7200
(850) 627-9233/875-8642

GILCHRIST
119 NE First St.
Trenton 32693
(352) 463-3120
(352) 463-3198

GLADES
956 Hwy 27 SW
Moore Haven 33471
(863) 946-0707
(863) 946-6020

GULF
2475 Garrison Ave.
Port St. Joe 32456
(850) 227-1276
(850) 229-9110

HAMILTON
209 SE Central Ave.
Jasper 32052
(386) 792-1414
(386) 792-6647

HARDEE
115 K.D. Revell Rd.
Wauchula 33873
(863) 773-4161
(863) 773-6373

HENDRY
1140 Pratt Blvd.
LaBelle 33975
(863) 674-4056
(863) 612-4700/983-1594

HERNANDO
300 S Main St.
Brooksville 34601
(352) 754-4067
(352) 754-4083

HIGHLANDS
7205 S George Blvd.
Sebring 33875
(863) 386-6040
(863) 385-1112

HILLSBOROUGH
1105 E Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa 33602
(813) 307-8008
(813) 276-2385

HOLMES
603 Scenic Circle
Bonifay 32425
(850) 547-3691
(850) 547-1112

INDIAN RIVER
1900 27th St.
Vero Beach 32960
(772) 794-7450
(772) 567-2154

JACKSON
3045 Fourth St.
Marianna 32446
(850) 482-9862
(850) 482-9678

JEFFERSON
1255 W Washington St.
Monticello 32344
(850) 342-0170
(850) 342-0211

LAFAYETTE
140 SW Virginia Cir.
Mayo 32066
(386) 294-1321
(386) 294-1950

LAKE
16140 US Hwy 441
Eustis 32726
(352) 589-6424
(352) 343-9420

LEE
3920 Michigan Ave.
Ft. Myers 33916
(239) 332-9511
(239) 477-3600/335-1600

LEON
2965 Municipal Way
Tallahassee 32304
(850) 487-3146
(850) 488-5921

LEVY
66 W Main St.
Bronson 32621
(352) 486-5300
(352) 486-5213

LIBERTY
12832 NW Central Ave.
Bristol 32321
(850) 643-2415
(850) 643-2339

MADISON
800 Third Street
Madison 32340
(850) 973-5000
(850) 973-3698

MANATEE
410 Sixth Ave. E
Bradenton 34208
(941) 748-0747
(941) 748-4501

MARION
1801 SE 32nd Ave.
Ocala 34471
(352) 629-0137
(352) 622-3205

MARTIN
620 S Dixie Highway
Stuart 34994
(772) 221-4030
(772) 288-5694

MIAMI-DADE
1350 NW 14th St.
Miami 33125
(305) 324-2400
(305) 468-5400

MONROE
1100 Simonton St.
Key West 33040
(305) 293-7500
(305) 289-6018

NASSAU
30 S 4th St.
Fernandina Beach 32035
(904) 277-7287
(904) 491-7550

OKALOOSA
221 Hospital Dr., NE
Ft. Walton Beach 32548
(850) 833-9240
(850) 751-7560

OKEECHOBEE
1728 NW 9th Ave.
Okeechobee 34972
(863) 462-5760
(863) 763-3212

ORANGE
832 W Central Blvd.
Orlando 32802
(407) 623-1180
(407) 836-9151

OSCEOLA
1875 Boggy Creek Rd.
Kissimmee 34745
(407) 343-2016
(407) 343-7000

PALM BEACH
826 Evernia St.
West Palm Beach 33402
(561) 840-4500
(561) 712-6400

PASCO
10841 Little Rd
New Port Richey 34654
(727) 869-3900
(727) 847-8137

PINELLAS
205 Dr. ML King St. N
St. Petersburg 33701
(727) 824-6900
(727) 464-3800

POLK
1290 Golfview Ave., 4th floor
Bartow 33830
(863) 519-7900
(863) 534-0350

PUTNAM
2801 Kennedy St.
Palatka 32177
(386) 326-3200
(386) 329-0379

SANTA ROSA
5527 Stuart St.
Milton 32570
(850) 983-5200
(850) 983-5360

SARASOTA
2200 Ringling Blvd.
Sarasota 34237
(941) 861-2900
(941) 861-5300

SEMINOLE
400 W Airport Blvd.
Sanford 32773
(407) 665-3200
(407) 665-5102

ST. JOHNS
1955 US Hwy 1 S, Ste. 100
St. Augustine 32086
(904) 825-5055
(904) 824-5550

ST. LUCIE
5150 NW Milner Dr.
Port St. Lucie 34983
(772) 462-3800
(772) 461-5201

SUMTER
415 E Noble Ave.
Bushnell 33513
(352) 793-6979
(352) 569-6000

SUWANNEE
915 Nobles Ferry Rd.
Live Oak 32064
(386) 362-2708
(386) 364-3405

TAYLOR
1215 N Peacock Ave.
Perry 32347
(850) 584-5087
(850) 838-3575/838-3576

UNION
495 E Main St.
Lake Butler 32054
(386) 496-3211
(386) 496-4330

VOLUSIA
1845 Holsenback Dr.
Daytona Beach 32120
(386) 274-0500
(386) 254-1500

WAKULLA
48 Oak St.
Crawfordville 32327
(850) 926-3591
(850) 926-0861

WALTON
493 N 9th St.
De Funiak Springs 32433
(850) 892-8015
(850) 892-8065

WASHINGTON
1338 S Blvd.
Chipley 32428
(850) 638-6240
(850) 638-6203

Best steps for evacuating during a hurricane:

- Stay alert to storm advisories. Know the difference between a watch and a warning.
- Evacuate if told to do so and evacuate early. Use your plan. Do not get on the road without a place to go.
- Secure your home before leaving. Board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside, and lock your doors.
- Get cash before a hurricane. Banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed after the storm.
- If possible, evacuate to the home of either friends or family in a non-vulnerable area within your county. Next, try a motel or hotel in a non-vulnerable area, and as a last resort go to a public shelter. Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort.
- People who require special assistance in evacuating should register with their local county emergency management office (see page 8 in the yellow, center pull-out section).

WILDFIRES

Do you live in an area where flammable vegetation is abundant and susceptible to lightning or accidents?

- Make your property more fire resistant by keeping lawns trimmed, leaves raked, and roofs and rain gutters free of debris. Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your home. Store flammable materials, liquids and solvents in metal containers outside the home at least 30 feet from structures and wooden fences.
- Create defensible space by thinning trees and brush within 30 feet around your home. Make sure water sources, such as hydrants, ponds, swimming pools and wells, are accessible to emergency responders.
- Protect your home by using fire resistant, protective roofing and materials like stone, brick or metal.

Your property's entrance should be clearly marked, with emergency vehicle access at least 12 feet wide with adequate turnaround space.

For the most up-to-date information on Florida's preparedness, along with links to valuable resources, simply visit www.myflorida.com and click on Keeping Florida Prepared. A few minutes now can make all the difference later.

Governor Jeb Bush

man-made threats—what you need to know

Terrorism

Radiological Threats

Biological Agents

Chemical Agents

Man-made threats against the United States have gained much attention in our government and media, and have become much more real since the devastation of September 11, 2001. The nation's awareness and security since then have been heightened; our response efforts enhanced.

The following information about man-made threats is general information gathered from sources including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health. You should know that these large-scale man-made threats are extremely difficult to carry out and threatening agents extremely difficult to manufacture.

TERRORISM

Terrorism can take many shapes and forms. Individuals should always be aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious activities to local authorities. When traveling, be aware of conspicuous or unusual behavior. Do not accept packages from strangers. Do not leave luggage unattended in airports or public buildings.

While developing your Family Plan for Disaster and Emergencies, here are some additional steps to consider:

- **Know the school's emergency plan for any school-aged children.**
- **Shelter children from repetitive media terrorism reports about the event. Young children cannot tell the difference between past news stories and may believe terrorist attacks are ongoing.**
- **In a disaster event, secure your home by turning off all fans and heating and air conditioning systems and closing the fireplace damper.**

The Department of Health's Bureau of Radiation Control has a mobile radiation laboratory that can support emergency response operations, and it operates a 24-hour radiological emergency notification number, (407) 297-2095.

RADIOLOGICAL THREATS

The threat of release of radioactive materials from a nuclear power plant accident or a terrorist act is very unlikely. However, everyone should be aware of radiological threats and how to deal with them.

A "dirty bomb," or radiological dispersal device (RDD), combines conventional explosives such as dynamite with radioactive material, such as spent fuel rods from nuclear reactors or commercial applications.

- **Dirty bombs are not nuclear weapons and would not create a nuclear explosion.**
- **Any type of radioactive material could be used in a dirty bomb, but in general, such devices would be unlikely to cause serious health effects beyond those caused by the detonating explosives. A dirty bomb's radioactivity would be dispersed into the air and reduced to relatively low concentrations, minimizing the doses to anyone outside the immediate vicinity. People living or working downwind from the explosion may be asked to evacuate as a precaution.**

- A low-level exposure to radioactive contamination could slightly increase the long-term risk of cancer. However, exposure to ionizing radiation at higher levels could result in radiation sickness or radiation poisoning. Health effects will depend on the amount of radioactive material in the bomb, the type of radioactive substance, and how far it was dispersed.

Nuclear explosions occur when masses of highly processed radioactive material are thrust together suddenly, triggering a violent chain reaction and release of energy.

For more information on national domestic security:
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

- The likelihood of a nuclear explosion from a terrorist event is extremely small.
- Special, highly-guarded materials and expertise are required to construct and detonate a nuclear weapon.

Florida has five commercial nuclear reactors located at three sites—Crystal River (one reactor), located about 60 miles north of Tampa; St. Lucie (two reactors), located just south of Ft. Pierce; and Turkey Point (two reactors), located near Homestead.

For more information on domestic security in Florida:
- www.myflorida.com click on "Keeping Florida Prepared"
- www.fdle.state.fl.us/osi/domesticsecurity
- www.floridadisaster.org

- Another nuclear plant with two reactors, Farley (located near Dothan, Alabama), also could impact Florida residents if an emergency were to occur. All are privately owned and operated facilities that are regulated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC's strict guidelines and routine inspections ensure the highest level of safety and security at nuclear power plants.
- State and local officials hold regular drills to test response capabilities.

ACTION & TREATMENT FOR RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES

- In a radiological emergency, the public should listen to the local emergency broadcast messages, which will give recommendations about evacuation, sheltering, and other protective actions.
- Evacuation is the most effective protective measure in the event of a radiological emergency because distancing yourself from the source of radiation is the best way to minimize exposure. When evacuation is not possible, in-place sheltering also is effective.

For more information about Potassium Iodide: www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/ki.htm

- People exposed to airborne radioactive contaminants should be washed to remove external contamination.
- An accident involving a nuclear reactor or nuclear weapon could release potentially harmful amounts of radioactive iodine into the environment. One method of treatment for exposure to radioiodine is to administer potassium iodide (KI), which blocks the thyroid's absorption of radioiodine. If an appropriate dose of KI is taken before or immediately after exposure, the risk of thyroid effects will be reduced.
- Florida, in cooperation with county and local officials, has stockpiled KI pills for distribution in an emergency to members of the public located near nuclear power plants. Distribution of KI would occur at selected reception centers that are currently part of local plans for nuclear power plant emergencies.

BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

Biological agents are bacteria, viruses or toxins that can cause deadly diseases in people, livestock and crops. It is important that people realize that only a small number of the hundreds of bacteria and viruses are viable as terrorist weapons. Most biological agents cannot survive outside narrow temperature ranges or are too rare and difficult to grow.

If government officials become aware of a biological attack, they would instruct residents on the best course of action based on the circumstances of the attack.

Some of the information for this section was obtained from the CDC. Because information can change, visit the CDC website for information about biological or chemical agents: www.bt.cdc.gov

Anthrax is a disease caused by a bacteria called Bacillus anthracis. Anthrax most commonly occurs in wild and domestic animals, but it can occur in humans. This can happen when people are exposed to the infected animals, their tissue, or spores of the bacteria that have been released, possibly intentionally.

Symptoms of the disease vary depending on how the disease was contracted, but symptoms usually occur within seven days.

- **Anthrax is recognized as a bioterrorist agent because people can be exposed if anthrax spores are intentionally released into the environment. It is extremely difficult to weaponize anthrax.**
- **Anthrax infection can occur in three forms: cutaneous (skin), inhalation (through the respiratory system), and gastrointestinal (through the digestive system).**
- **Direct person-to-person spread of anthrax is extremely unlikely and has only been reported with cutaneous anthrax.**

Visit the Florida Department of Health website at www.doh.state.fl.us

Smallpox is an acute, contagious, and sometimes fatal disease caused by the variola virus (an orthopoxvirus) and marked by fever and a distinctive progressive skin rash. The last case of smallpox in the U.S. was in 1949. In 1980, the disease was declared eradicated following worldwide vaccination programs. However, in the aftermath of the terrorist events in our country, the federal government has been taking precautions to deal with smallpox should it be used as a bioweapon.

The National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) is maintained by the CDC. It consists of the necessary drugs and supplies for treatment of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). These supplies can be sent anywhere in the U.S. within 12 hours.

- **The smallpox virus is fragile. In laboratory experiments, 90 percent of aerosolized smallpox virus dies within 24 hours; in the presence of ultraviolet (UV) light (including sunlight), this percentage would be even greater.**

Plague is an infectious disease of animals and humans caused by a bacterium named Yersinia pestis. Plague has three forms or stages: bubonic (concentrated in the lymph nodes), septicemic (in the bloodstream), and pneumonic (in the respiratory system). It can result in high fatalities. All types of plague are readily controlled by standard public health response measures. An average of 5 to 15 cases of plague occur each year in the western United States. These cases are usually scattered and occur in rural to semi-rural areas.

- **The bacterium that causes plague could be used in a bioterrorist aerosol attack. Yersinia pestis is easily destroyed by sunlight and drying. Even so, when released into air, the bacterium will survive for up to one hour. It is believed to be highly unlikely that an aerosol attack could cause an outbreak six days after exposure.**

- **Manufacturing an effective weapon using Yersinia pestis would require advanced knowledge and technology.**

Tularemia is a naturally occurring bacteria that in nature affects wild rabbits and hares. Humans could contract the disease naturally from infected tick or insect bites, and through contact with blood and tissue of infected animals.

- **Tularemia could be made into an airborne bacteria for intentional inhalation exposure.**

Botulism is a rare but serious muscle paralyzing disease caused by a toxin made by a bacterium called Clostridium botulinum. Clostridium botulinum is found in the soil worldwide.

- **The bacteria poses a bioweapon threat because of its extreme potency, and the potential need for prolonged intensive care in affected persons.**
- **Botulinum toxin could be disseminated as an aerosol or used to contaminate food products. Botulism is not spread from person to person.**
- **Food-borne botulism occurs when a person ingests pre-formed toxin. The most common source of food-borne botulism in the United States over the course of time has been home-canned foods.**
- **Other forms of botulism are infant and wound botulism. Infant botulism occurs in a small number of susceptible infants each year who harbor Clostridium botulinum in their intestinal tract. Wound botulism occurs when wounds are infected with Clostridium botulinum that secretes the toxin.**

Ricin is a toxin that can be made from the waste left over from processing castor beans. It can be in the form of powder, mist, pellet, or it can be dissolved in water or weak acid. It is not affected much by extreme conditions such as very hot or very cold temperatures.

- **The mist or powder form of ricin could be inhaled.**
- **Ricin can also get into water or food and then be swallowed. Pellets of ricin, or ricin dissolved in a liquid, can be injected into people's bodies.**
- **Ricin works by preventing the body's cells from making the proteins they need. Without the proteins, cells die. Eventually the whole body can shut down.**
- **Ricin poisoning is not contagious.**

Viral hemorrhagic fevers, such as those caused by Marburg and Ebola viruses, are severe diseases in humans and nonhuman primates (monkeys and chimpanzees).

- **These viruses have been weaponized by the former Soviet Union, but this process is very difficult and requires sophisticated technology. They are not likely to be used as a terrorist weapon; however, they have been identified by the federal government as a potential bioweapon.**

The National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) is maintained by the CDC. It consists of the necessary drugs and supplies for treatment of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). These supplies can be sent anywhere in the U.S. within 12 hours.

CHEMICAL AGENTS

Chemicals are an important part of life. They are a natural and important part of our environment, and even though we don't often think about it, we use chemicals every day. They help keep our food fresh and our bodies clean. They help our plants grow and fuel our cars. Many people think of chemicals as only those substances used in manufacturing processes. But chemicals can be found everywhere—in our kitchens, medicine cabinets, basements and garages.

Under certain conditions, chemicals can be poisonous or have a harmful effect on your health. Some chemicals considered safe and even helpful in small amounts, can be harmful in larger quantities or under certain conditions.

Chemical accidents can happen at home and in our communities, and now our nation must be aware of the potential for intentional release of chemical agents, even chemical warfare agents.

A person can be exposed to chemicals in three ways: breathing; swallowing contaminated food, water, medication or soil; or by touching a chemical, or coming into contact with clothing or something that has touched a chemical.

A terrorist chemical attack would more likely be the release of a poisonous industrial chemical such as chlorine or ammonia and not chemical warfare agents.

Chemical warfare agents are poisonous vapors, aerosols, liquids or solids that have toxic effects on people, animals or plants. Chemical warfare agents are difficult to deliver in lethal concentrations and difficult to produce. Outdoors, the agents often dissipate rapidly.

Chemical incidents typically are characterized by the rapid onset of medical symptoms and easily observed signatures. Severity of injuries depends on the type and amount of the chemical agent used and the duration of exposure.

Cyanide compounds, such as hydrogen cyanide and cyanogen chloride, are both industrial chemicals and chemical warfare agents.

- **Cyanide gases dissipate very rapidly under most weather conditions.**
- **They are very toxic when breathed in, but respond to antidotes available in hospitals and state pharmaceutical stockpiles.**

Mustard agents are colorless, oily, odorless liquids that can be vaporized to form a gas.

- **Mustard agents enter the body through inhalation or skin contact and damage any tissue that comes into contact with them, causing large water-filled blisters.**
- **They may cause blindness and death by severe lung damage.**

Sarin and other nerve agents, such as soman and tabun, were derived from compounds originally used as insecticides.

- These agents are highly toxic to humans.
- All are liquid at room temperature but are most toxic when dispersed as aerosols. They may penetrate the skin and eyes but are rapidly absorbed when breathed in.

VX is a nerve agent. It is an oily liquid designed to remain in the environment for a very long time.

- The liquid form can be similar in appearance to motor oil.
- VX can enter the body through ingestion, through the eyes or the skin, or be inhaled as vapor.

ACTION & TREATMENT FROM ANY CHEMICAL DISASTER OR EMERGENCY

- Immediate symptoms of exposure to chemical agents may include blurred vision, eye irritation, difficulty breathing and nausea.
- Try to get upwind and away from the affected area as quickly as possible without running (which increases breathing rate and absorption of an agent).
- If your clothing has been splashed with a liquid, remove it, being very careful not to get any liquid on your skin. If there is an oily liquid on your skin, scrape it off. Flush your eyes with water. Follow directions of authorities as they arrive on the scene.
- You may be asked to go through decontamination and you may receive antidotes depending on any symptoms.
- If you are at home or at work, you may be given directions to evacuate.

Chemical awareness at home:

- Store chemical products properly.
- Never smoke while using household chemicals. Do not use hair spray, cleaning solutions, paint products, or pesticides near open flames of an appliance, pilot light, lighted candle, fireplace, wood burning stove, etc.
- Clean up a chemical spill immediately. Use cat litter to soak up liquid and then clean up with rags. Allow fumes from rags to evaporate outdoors in a safe place.
- Properly dispose of chemicals.
- Learn more about proper methods of chemical disposal from your county health department or waste collection facility.

empower yourself & your family
by being aware & prepared

for more information

State of Florida
www.myflorida.com

Florida Department of Health: County Health Departments
www.doh.state.fl.us

Florida Division of Emergency Management
www.floridadisaster.org

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
www.fema.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
www.noaa.gov

National Weather Service
www.nws.noaa.gov

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
www.ready.gov
www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
www.cdc.gov

USDA Food Safety and Consumer Information
www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/consedu.htm
(for the "Bad Bug Book" visit http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~mow/intro.html)

Food Safety.gov (part of the National Food Safety Information Network)
www.foodsafety.gov/~fsg/fsgadvic.html

National Flood Insurance Program
1-800-427-4661

DH 150-740, 3/03 5730-740-0150-5

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