

Cherry Lane Ward - Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (v021922)

“No true Latter-Day Saint, while physically or emotionally able, will voluntarily shift the burden of his own or his family’s well-being to someone else. So long as he can, under the inspiration of the Lord and with his own labors, he will supply himself and his family with the spiritual and temporal necessities of life (1Tim 5:8). Spencer W. Kimball Members of the Church have been counseled for many years to be prepared for adversity. Preparation, both spiritual and temporal, can dispel fear. With the guidance of Church leaders, individual members and families should prepare to be physically and spiritually self-reliant in times of a personal or widespread emergency.

General Actions

- Acquire a week’s worth of everyday ready-to-eat foods, then two weeks with a goal of a 3-month supply.
- Store clean water for cooking and drinking in case the water supply is disrupted. Minimum 2 gal/day per person.
- Having games and treats on hand will help to dispel fear and help family members to pass the time.
- Prepare spiritually through daily scripture study, personal prayer, temple attendance, service and covenant keeping.
- Have **120-hour (5 days)** kits available for quick access (**check/update twice per year**). Have pet supplies if needed.
- Maintain physical health (we may need to walk or ride a bike to communicate information).
- Prepare financially and have some cash on hand--small to medium denomination bills are better.
- Have a plan for how to contact and account for all family members in case of an emergency that may occur when they are separated from one another. Each family member should have a whistle to signal for help if needed.
- In the event of an emergency, please contact your ministering brothers (**within 2 hours if possible**) and tell them the status of your family and give an assessment of your situation. If your ministering brothers are not available, contact a member of the Elders’ Quorum presidency.
- Have a wrench or pliers to turn off utilities if needed; keep your home secured during an emergency situation.

Ministering Brothers

- Ministering brothers should check on the status of those they are assigned to who do not report in. This can be accomplished by using a landline, satellite or cell phone, the Internet, amateur, two-way or CB radio, or personal visit. Give a report to your ministering supervisor, or your Elders’ Quorum President. The Elders’ Quorum President, or his designee, will provide initial information, and any follow-up reports to the Bishop or his designee. If phones and/or the Internet are down, ministering brothers will have to make a personal contact with their assigned families and their quorum leader. In an emergency, ministering brothers may be asked to assist in gathering information from ward members whose ministering brothers are unavailable.

Ward Council members (under the direction of the bishopric)

a. Preparedness Phase (Ongoing process)

- Encourage ward members to: set aside a year’s supply of long-term foods, as well as 3 months of ready-to-eat everyday foods; acquire first aid supplies, medication(s), sanitation, and other supplies and develop skills that would be useful in emergencies. Maintain an adequate supply of fresh water (recommended amount is 2 gallons per family member per day as a minimum, for 2 weeks). Obtain adequate warm clothing and bedding, a portable radio and a reliable flashlight with back-up batteries, prescriptions, and emergency shelter.
- Create and maintain a current list of ward members who are able to provide resources or use special skills or tools during an emergency situation (**update at least yearly**)
- Ensure that every individual/family in the ward has been assigned ministering brothers and that they know how to contact each other in an emergency.
- Maintain a list of ward members who may need special assistance during an emergency. i.e elderly, single parents, any who are dependent on oxygen or refrigerated medications, homebound, etc. (**update every 6 mos. min**).

b. Emergency Response Phase – Ministering Brothers

- Account for your own family members first, followed by your ministering families, then report to the church building to assist others in responding to member/community needs as soon as possible.
- Quorum leaders will give **initial reports** from ministering brothers to the bishop or designated bishopric member (**as soon as possible and no later than by the end of the 2nd hour after an incident is declared**). Please continue to contact and report on all ward members, even if it’s past the 2nd hour.
- Receive/delegate assignments to assist with support/rescue/evacuation procedures if needed.
- Receive/delegate assignments to assist with medical aid and shelter if needed.
- **Bishop (or designated Bishopric member)** reports to Stake Adult Leadership Committee at the end of hour 2 after an incident has been declared.
- Bishop may initiate a modified Ward Council meeting to address new and ongoing issues. Modified Ward Council would include Bishopric, RS and EQ Presidents, and Executive Secretary.