

# Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness



Prepared by Hamilton County Leadership Academy

2004

## The First 3 Days

Do you realize that you should be prepared to stay at home for three days in case of a natural or man-made disaster? What would you do? Are you prepared for 72 hours of survival on your own? Whether the crisis is an act of terrorism, a chemical or biological disaster, or an earthquake, flood, fire, or tornado, you must have essential items to sustain your life, and the lives of your family. The following are a few of these essentials:

### Communication and Location

Many times disaster strikes at home. Be prepared! Know who to contact and where to meet in an emergency. Agree with your family, relatives, and friends on a mutual meeting place within your neighborhood, a location and contact person in another part of town, and a location in another city, or even another state.

### 72-Hour Survival Kit

Assemble easy to transport and waterproof survival kits for each member of your family. These kits should include a supply of water, food, pet food, extra clothing, prescription and over-the-counter medications, cell phone, radio, first aid kit, light sources, batteries, lighters and waterproof matches, pocket knife/tools, blanket, sun block, rain poncho, hand and foot warmers, sewing kit, personal hygiene kit (toothbrush, toothpaste, eye care, soap, comb, tissue, sanitary napkins), as well as money, vital contact information and documents. Stress relievers such as books, small toys, and games can also be important to have. Your kit should be inspected and updated annually. A survival kit is also

valuable to have at work, in your car, and even, in a reduced form, at school.

### Water is essential to life

You can survive for a short period of time on water alone. Keep one gallon per family member per day, stored in heavy-duty plastic barrels or metalized plastic bags in dark cool areas. Two-liter plastic bottles are another inexpensive way to store water. Old milk jugs are not recommended because they are biodegradable and can breakdown over short periods of time. Glass containers are not recommended because they can break. Replace your stored water at least once a year. Be sure the water is potable (suitable as drinking water).

### Retain Vital Information

Make a list of emergency contact numbers. Include these numbers with your 72-hour survival kit, and retain copies at work or school. This list should include family, friends and neighbors, Fire and Police Departments, the Poison Control Center, family doctors, and hotlines to utility companies. Copies of important documents should be included in your kit, including insurance policies, bank and credit card account information, wills, birth certificates, wedding certificates, and forms of personal identification such as social security cards and drivers licenses.

### Money

Cash seems like an outdated way of purchasing items. However, in an emergency, financial centers may not be available for transactions to take place. Put aside cash, as well as rolls of coins for telephones. Keep some cash on you at all times, and always pay your bills, especially your home mortgage, on time.

## HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM



Much of this information spelled out above can be found in more detail through various organizations such as the American Red Cross, and web sites such as [www.beprepared.com](http://www.beprepared.com), and [www.in.gov/ctasc](http://www.in.gov/ctasc). Simply keep in mind that your survival in an emergency will first be dependent on you. The "Ready Card" below is provided as a tool that will assist you and your family with your survival plan.

Source of information can be found at [www.dhs.gov/dhspublic](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic), [www.beprepared.com](http://www.beprepared.com).

Please Detach and Fill Out Vital Contact Information



## READY CARD

FIVE EASY STEPS TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

**STEP 1. FILL-OUT THE CARD AND KEEP IT IN YOUR WALLET.**

**STEP 2. CREATE AN EMERGENCY PLAN**

- PLAN AS A FAMILY
- INCLUDE SPECIAL NEEDS, SUCH AS CHILDREN, THE ELDERLY, THE SICK AND PETS
- PREPARE A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT WITH WATER, TOOLS, A RADIO AND CANNED FOOD
- LEARN HOW TO SHUT-OFF UTILITIES, SUCH AS WATER AND GAS

**STEP 3. LEARN HOW TO EVACUATE**

- TAKE IDENTIFICATION AND NECESSARY CLOTHING
- FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ON THE RADIO
- TAKE YOUR DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

**STEP 4. LEARN HOW TO SHELTER IN PLACE**

- BRING ALL FAMILY MEMBERS INSIDE
- TURN OFF HEATING, COOLING AND VENTILATION
- DO NOT LEAVE UNTIL YOU GET AN "ALL CLEAR" SIGNAL FROM AUTHORITIES

**STEP 5. LEARN WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON DISASTER SUPPLY KITS, FIRST-AID TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:**

- [WWW.READY.GOV](http://WWW.READY.GOV), [WWW.REDCROSS.ORG](http://WWW.REDCROSS.ORG) OR YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY



INDIANA CITIZEN CORPS

## READY CARD

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

• 911

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FAMILY NUMBERS

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BUSINESS NUMBERS

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OTHER NUMBERS

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## READY CARD

EVACUATION PLAN

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• SMOKE ALARM BATTERY (✓ EVERY 6 MOS.) / /

• MEETING PLACE

• OUT OF STATE CONTACT #S

EMERGENCY SHELTER PLAN  
(BASEMENT, HALLWAY):

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• DATE OF READY KIT (✓ EVERY 6 MOS.) / /

• WATCH = POSSIBLE SEVERE WEATHER  
WARNING = SEVERE WEATHER REPORTED

MEDICINE / ALLERGIES / PHYSICIAN  
NAME & PHONE #:

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## “How can you help? – Volunteer Opportunities”

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush launched the USA Freedom Corps initiative to inspire and enable all Americans to find ways to serve their community, their country, or their world. Citizen Corps is the component of the USA Freedom Corps that creates opportunities for individuals to volunteer to help their communities prepare for and respond to emergencies by bringing together local leaders, citizen volunteers and the network of first responder organizations such as fire departments, police departments, and emergency medical personnel.

Four programs are being promoted at the national level as a part of Citizen Corps. The federal Citizen Corps programs are:

- The Neighborhood Watch Program – a highly successful crime prevention effort that brings together local officials, law enforcement, and citizens to create a united front in protecting our communities. Additional information about registering a watch group or obtaining resources to support Neighborhood Watch efforts is available at [www.usaonwatch.org](http://www.usaonwatch.org).

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – provides training in emergency preparedness and in basic response techniques to local trainers who, in turn, train citizens. Additional information on CERT is available at [www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/cert](http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/cert).
- Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) – provides training for volunteers to perform administrative and non-intervention policing activities to free up law enforcement professionals for frontline duty. Additional information on Volunteers in Police Services is available at [www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org).
- Medical Reserve Corps – allows both currently practicing and retired volunteers trained in healthcare and others interested in public health issues to assist during large-scale emergencies. Additional information on Medical Reserve Corps is available at [www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov).

To learn more about the role of these programs in Hamilton County or to volunteer your services, contact Hamilton County's Emergency Management Agency, at 317-770-3381.

Sources: "Indiana's Strategy for Homeland Security" (article taken from Counter-Terrorism and Security Council website)  
"Indiana Council Citizen Corps" (from Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism website)  
"Citizen Corps a Guide for Local Officials" (from FEMA website)

## Special Thanks

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## What is Hamilton County Leadership Academy?

The Hamilton County Leadership Academy, Inc. was created in 1991 to address the need for informed leadership in Hamilton County. The Hamilton County Leadership Academy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and staffed by a part-time Executive Director. Funding is provided by tuition fees, contributions from local government entities and corporations, grants and private donations.

The mission of the Hamilton County Leadership Academy is to create a pool of knowledgeable community leaders who will apply their skills to government, business, and civic activities in order to positively shape the future of Hamilton County, Indiana. As part of the program curriculum, each class must complete a subcommittee project geared at identifying and addressing an issue facing Hamilton County residents and businesses. One of the "class of 2004" subcommittee selected homeland security and disaster preparedness as an issue they felt was important. With the goal of creating awareness, the subcommittee members worked with various state and local

governmental emergency management organizations to first educate themselves on the topic. They quickly concluded that, although the topic of homeland security and disaster preparedness has gained much national attention over the past several years, it is important to ensure that message is clearly received by Hamilton County residents. The group felt that message should not only include what residents can do to prepare, but also what voluntary opportunities and resources are available to them. The Hamilton County Leadership Academy is hopeful that this information will lend to our goal of community awareness.

The Hamilton County Leadership Academy is a member of the Indiana Leadership Association and the National Association for Community Leadership.

To learn more about the Hamilton County Leadership Academy, call 317-770-9701 or visit our website at [www.hcla.net](http://www.hcla.net).

SLM Corporation (NYSE: SLM), commonly known as Sallie Mae, is the nation's leading provider of education funding, managing more than \$92 billion in student loans for more than 7 million borrowers. The company primarily provides federally guaranteed student loans originated under the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), and offers comprehensive information and resources to guide students, parents and guidance professionals through the financial aid process.

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The Noblesville Ledger is the leading source of local news and information for and about Hamilton County. Readers depend on the twice-weekly Ledger to know what's happening in schools and communities, especially in Noblesville, Westfield, Cicero, Arcadia, Atlanta and Sheridan. For daily news updates, go to [www.TheNoblesvilleLedger.com](http://www.TheNoblesvilleLedger.com). The Ledger's sister newspaper, Topics, provides the same depth of local news and information for the communities of Fishers and Carmel. It's always "where news hits home."

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## Important Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

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