

## *Are You Ready?*

Our Saviour's is a community of faith, and we find great comfort in that faith. But we are also a community of Americans, and since 9/11 and the threatened war with Iraq, we know that as Americans we are now faced with the possibility of terrorist attacks in our country. This possibility has prompted us to examine our preparedness for disasters, be they natural or manmade.

As part of this examination we have found information we know will be helpful to you. Much of the information also applies in situations where there is an extended power outage, such as tornadoes, or major ice and snowstorms.

1. For **general information** on a family readiness plan, there are three websites that give detailed plan information. Those websites are:
  - [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) - This is the U.S. Department of Homeland Security site.
  - [www.fema.gov/areyouready/](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/) - The FEMA site. Contains a wealth of information on both natural and manmade disasters.
  - [www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/unexpected.html](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/unexpected.html) - The Red Cross site.
  - In addition, the Federal government has prepared a booklet entitled "**Are You Ready?**" This booklet is free, and can be ordered by calling **1-800-480-2320** and ordering **Publication H-34**. This booklet is also available on the Homeland Security and FEMA sites.
  - The Village of Arlington Heights recommends that you have enough supplies and resources for a 72-hour period, since in the event of a disaster, their services will be taxed.
2. **Special Concerns for Parents (and Grandparents & Other Child Caregivers)** – Keeping your children safe in case of a disaster is of great importance to parents. The websites listed above provide a lot of information for parents and children. Both the Red Cross and the FEMA site have information in kid-friendly formats; the FEMA site is very straightforward in its presentation (and might be a little intense for young children).

Some other considerations for parents are:

  - If your child attends school, find out what the school's policies are in case of a disaster. Many will have a lockdown policy, and will not release children.
  - Create an "authorization list". This would be a list of a number of people that you authorize to pick up your children in case you cannot reach them. You may also authorize emergency medical treatment and include any pertinent medical information. Give a copy of this information to each organization that your child is involved with. Make sure all persons designated to pick up your children, or have them in their care, also have a copy of the authorization list.
  - Some children may be fearful or anxious concerning the threat of terrorism or other disaster. Some resources, written from a Christian perspective, that may help you talk with your child about his fears are available in the north narthex brochure rack. Check out the various "Care Notes" provided there. Seek out one of our pastors, Denise Parrello, Jim Valentine, or a member of Stephen Ministry for additional resources.
3. **Medical Concerns** - If you have medications that you take on a regular basis, arrange with your doctor to give you a duplicate prescription or have an extra 30-day supply on hand. The websites and the booklet "**Are You Ready?**" listed above, both give more information about medical concerns.

We hope these ideas are helpful and will get you thinking about your readiness in the event of a disaster. We will provide you with additional information as we develop disaster plans for Our Saviour's.

*We continue to pray for peace throughout the world and for those who could be involved in conflicts throughout the world, and we ask God to guide and give wisdom to the leaders of all nations.*

# Are WE Ready?

If an emergency arose in our community, would you be willing to help?

Our Saviour's is developing a list of volunteers who we could call on in an emergency (disaster caused by war, terrorism, tornado, power outage, etc.). If you have specific skills or a willingness to help others in an emergency situation, please fill out the form below and return it to the "Are WE Ready?" box in the narthex or to the church office in care of Mr. Valentine.

Thank you for your willingness to help others!

\* \* \* \* \*

*Yes! I will help!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E mail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Note: This information will be used for emergency situations only. You will not be contacted by staff, committees and other organizations to get involved in regular programming of the church or community.

*Circle all categories that apply to you.*

- |               |                     |             |                       |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Doctor        | Nurse               | Paramedic   | Biologist             |
| Chemist       | Structural Engineer | Pharmacist  | Crisis Counselor      |
| Childcare     | Transportation      | Plumbing    | Computer Tech support |
| Electrician   | Care for Seniors    | Pastor      | General Repair skills |
| Phone calling | Carpentry           | Office work | Organizational skills |

**Availability:**