

Campus Safety Quarterly

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Disaster Lessons Learned From Hurricane Katrina

Emergency planners have told us for years that it may take days for help to arrive following a major disaster. This was proven in the aftermath of Katrina, where everything that could go wrong did go wrong. Lack of communication, coordination and transportation made the disaster even worse. Although San Diego is far from the hurricane zone, it is vulnerable to earthquakes and wildfires. We have also experienced rolling blackouts during the energy crisis. We can all learn valuable lessons from this terrible tragedy.

Whether you evacuate or take shelter in your home will depend on the type of disaster that occurs. In either case, some advance planning can make the event more survivable and tolerable. Don't wait for a disaster to happen. Prepare now. Remember that people always take priority over property. If you are in imminent danger, there may be no other choice than to flee immediately.

If you do have warning, be sure to have gas in your vehicle and some cash on hand. That way you can avoid long lines at the gas pumps if ordered to leave the area. ATMs and electric garage door openers may not work if the power is out. Think about items you could not live without and have them accessible for ready use or transport. This would include prescription medicines or medical devices. Protective shoes and clothing may help you avoid injuries. And if your home is destroyed, copies of important documents including identification and insurance information will assist in your recovery from the disaster.

Use the lists on the next page as guidelines to develop your own lists of important items and emergency supplies to assemble now in case a disaster strikes. You may also want to check out these federal, state and campus emergency preparedness websites for more information:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security: <http://www.ready.gov/>

Governor's Office of Emergency Services: <http://www.oes.ca.gov/>

San Diego State University: <http://bfa.sdsu.edu/emergency/>

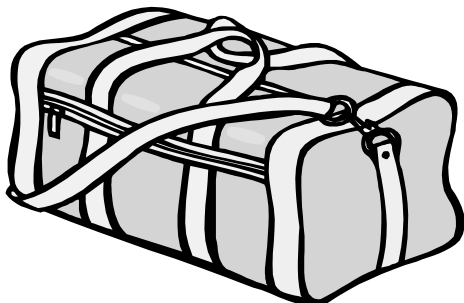
**September
is
National
Preparedness
Month.
Get Prepared.
Get Involved.**



Emergency Survival Supplies

Plan to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours following a major disaster. Emergency services will be responding to the most serious situations and may not be available to assist you. Your recovery will be more comfortable if you gather supplies before an emergency occurs. Store supplies in a duffel bag or backpack that is portable and easily accessible at home, at work and in your vehicle. Personalize the contents to meet your needs.

- Water - One gallon per person per day (canned fruits and vegetables are a source of water).
- Food - nutritious and nonperishable.
- Infants: formula/food, bottles, diapers, etc.
- Special items needed for the elderly or disabled.
- Pets: food, water, bowls, leash or carrier.
- Cooking utensils and manual can opener.
- Camp stove or gas barbecue for outdoor use only (ensure no gas leaks exist before using).
- Disposable plates and silverware.
- First aid kit and handbook.
- Prescription medicines and medical devices.
- Eyeglasses.
- Personal hygiene and sanitation supplies including heavy plastic bags and buckets.
- Flashlight and batteries (no candles).
- Portable radio and extra batteries.
- Cell phone and charger.
- Blankets or sleeping bags and plastic tarps.
- Sturdy shoes and comfortable clothes.
- Work gloves and dust masks for clearing debris.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Tools to turn off water and gas (only if leaking).
- Emergency cash (ATMs may not work).



Important Stuff What to Take With You

Make a list of items you would want to take with you in an emergency if time allows. Also, think about how you would carry or transport these items. Have boxes or other containers available for quick use. Also, keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid waiting in long lines for fuel. This list will differ for each person or household so use this as an example to make your own list.

- Prescription medicines and medical devices.
- Eyeglasses.
- Personal documents: birth and marriage certificates, passports, identification.
- Insurance cards and household inventory.
- Health insurance cards and medical records.
- Emergency contact phone numbers, addresses and e-mail addresses.
- Tax and financial information with phone numbers and account information.
- Irreplaceable or sentimental items including jewelry and family photos.
- Comfort items for children, maybe a favorite toy.
- Artwork.

Keep your list handy and be ready to gather the items in order of importance to your survival and recovery. You may even want to pack the most critical items ahead of time. Prioritize because there may not be time to gather everything on your list!

Emergency Financial First Aid Kit

If you are unsure about what documents are important to have in the event of an emergency, FEMA has developed an Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) in conjunction with Operation Hope and Citizen Corps. The EFFAK is a simple tool designed to help you maintain financial stability in an emergency. You can view the document online or print a copy at: http://www.ready.gov/pdf_effak.html. Once the kit is assembled, keep it in a portable, waterproof container. Complete and accurate financial records are as important to your long-term recovery as food and water are to your immediate survival.

New Electronic Waste Regulations Take Effect in California

In 2001 California became the second state in the U.S. to ban the disposal of televisions and computer monitors in landfills. Cathode ray tubes (CRTs), the main component of these items, contain high concentrations of lead, mercury and other toxic metals that have been linked to immediate and long-term health problems. The ban's intention was to prevent further contamination of soil and groundwater under landfills. The Electronic Recycling Act of 2003 (SB20), signed into law on September 24, 2003 and amended by SB50 on September 29, 2004, established a new program for consumers and the public to recycle video display devices such as televisions and computer monitors to ensure their safe and environmentally-sound disposal.

Effective January 1, 2005, retailers in California are required to collect a fee when "covered electronic devices" are sold. The "covered electronic devices" include CRT-containing televisions and computer monitors, laptop computers and liquid crystal display (LCD) desktop computer monitors. Beginning July 1, 2005, plasma and LCD televisions were included in the program. The fee is based on the size of the display screen measured diagonally and ranges from \$6 to \$10 per device. The funds generated are distributed to qualified entities to cover the cost of electronic waste collection and recycling.

Electronic Waste (E-Waste) at SDSU

On the SDSU campus, all surplus materials (including e-waste) can be disposed of through Materials Management. The SDSU Moving Services Request Form is on their website at: <http://bus.sdsu.edu/Material/move/moveservice.asp> and can be mailed to MC 8515. Mark the equipment as working or non-working as this will determine how it is recycled. Working equipment may be sold at auction. Equipment that is not working will be disassembled and the useful elements such as copper cable, glass and plastic will be removed for reuse.

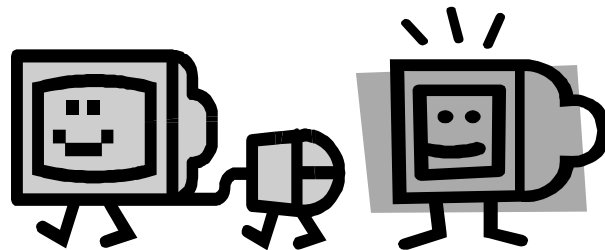
DO NOT DISPOSE OF ELECTRONIC WASTE IN CAMPUS DUMPSTERS. THIS IS ILLEGAL AND CAN RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL FINES FOR IMPROPER DISPOSAL.

Before disposing of any computer, contact your IT support for guidance on erasing the hard drive. This will protect you and the campus from the misuse of confidential or sensitive information.

Household E-Waste

Now that the state is paying recyclers to accept electronic waste, consumers should be able to recycle their e-waste at no charge. Community events are held periodically so watch for information about collection events in your neighborhood. Qualified recyclers are also listed on the California Integrated Waste Management Board website at: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Electronics/Collection/>. Not all recyclers accept items from the public so contact the site before taking your e-waste there.

If you have questions about the new e-waste regulations or proper disposal of electronic items, please contact the Department of Environmental Health and Safety at X46778.



Calling All Cell Phones And Rechargeable Batteries

Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) can now recycle cell phones and rechargeable batteries for the campus. If you have an old cell phone or rechargeable batteries (Ni-Cd, Ni-MH, Li-ion, or lead Pb), bring them to EH&S in CSL Room 106. The batteries cannot weigh more than 2 pounds or 1 kilogram each. For large batteries, call X46778 to request hazardous waste disposal.

September is Personal Protective Equipment Awareness Month

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is intended to protect workers from hazards in the workplace. The specific job duties and work environment will dictate the types of PPE needed. Select PPE that is appropriate for the tasks and hazards of the job. Inspect all PPE before use to ensure it is in good condition to get the maximum protection. Never take unnecessary risks because PPE alone does not ensure safety. It also takes safe work practices to prevent accidents. Think about the kinds of hazards that exist in your workplace. Examples of PPE to consider include:

- Eye protection where splashes or flying particles are likely.
- Hearing protection in noisy environments.
- Gloves to protect hands.
- Closed or steel-toed shoes to protect feet.
- Hard hats to protect from possible falling debris.
- Respiratory protection in dusty or hazardous environments.
- Lab coat, smock or apron to protect skin and clothing.

If you have any questions about the selection or use of appropriate PPE, call the Department of Environmental Health and Safety at X46778.



October is Fire Safety Month

October 30 is the end of Daylight Savings Time. Fire officials suggest using the time change as a reminder to test your smoke detectors and change the batteries. Batteries should be changed twice a year to ensure the smoke detector works when you need it. Functioning smoke detectors are the best way to protect your family from injury or death in a house fire. Every year people are injured or killed by fires in homes where the smoke detectors did not work because the batteries were dead. So, remember to “fall back” and change those batteries for safety’s sake!



Campus Safety Quarterly On the Internet

To read the “Campus Safety Quarterly” online, visit the Environmental Health and Safety website at <http://bfa.sdsu.edu/ehs/> and click on **Publications** in the directory on the left side of the screen. All recent issues are available there to view or print.