



BUTTE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION EMERGENCY SERVICES

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 9, 2009 – 4:00 p.m.
Contact: Andy Pickett (530) 538-7052 or Sang Kim (530) 538-3875

Oroville, CA – With strong winds and rain anticipated early next week, Butte County officials remind residents that winter is around the corner and encourage residents to be prepared for any emergency. All families should be prepared by having a disaster preparedness kit to sustain their household for up to 72 hours and a family emergency plan. (Essential elements of a preparedness kit and emergency plan are shown in the attached document)

Additionally, Butte County officials offer the following tips:

- Roads are very slippery during the first storm of the season. Slow down and be alert.
- Drivers should never attempt to cross high water in their cars. Deceptively strong currents can wash cars and the people inside them down stream and into submerged hazards. For road closure information visit Butte County's website at www.buttecounty.net/publicworks/ or visit the Cal Trans website at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi>.
- If your power goes out, unplug or turn off all electric appliances. Otherwise, when power is restored, several appliances may come back on at once and overload your circuits or hot appliances may come on while you're away or asleep and pose a fire hazard. Leave a single lamp on to alert you when power returns. Turn your appliances back on one at a time when conditions return to normal.
- If high winds are expected, secure loose items on your property, remove dead or vulnerable branches from trees, and be vigilant for fallen branches.
- Treat all downed power lines as if they are "live" or energized. Keep yourself and others away from them and immediately call 911 then notify PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.
- If a storm is predicted, make sure your vehicle has plenty of fuel. When power is out, fuel pumps at service stations may not work.

Finally, be a good neighbor. Check on those around you, especially the elderly and those with disabilities to help them prepare for emergencies.

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Disaster Supplies Kit

The kit should include items that would meet your needs for at least three days, whether you are asked to evacuate your home or stay there. Store your supplies in sturdy, waterproof, easy-to-carry containers, such as backpacks or duffle bags, so you are ready to "grab and go" if necessary. You might even consider keeping a smaller version of the kit in your car.

- Water for at least three days (one gallon per person per day)
- Food that won't spoil or need much cooking (replace this food every six months)
- A change of clothes, comfortable shoes, and blankets or sleeping bags
- Battery-powered radio or television, flashlight, extra batteries, lighter or matches, sanitation supplies, basic tools, and a few dishes and kitchen utensils
- An extra set of car and house keys
- A basic first-aid kit
- A manual can opener
- Personal hygiene items to last at least three days
- Medication (or include copies of prescriptions)

Family Emergency Plan

Your family may not be together when emergencies arise, so it is important to plan in advance how you will contact one another, how you will get back together, and what you will do in different situations.

- Identify an out-of town contact. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.
- Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number and has a cell phone, coins, or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact. If you have a cell phone, program that person(s) as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) in your phone. If you are in an accident, emergency personnel will often check your ICE listings in order to get a hold of someone you know. Make sure to tell your family and friends that you've listed them as emergency contacts.
- Teach family members how to use text messaging (also known as SMS or Short Message Service). Text messages can often get around network disruptions when a phone call might not be able to get through.