

November 2020

Plans, Kits, and Equipment

When you think about it, this title kind of sums up preparedness. While many people think of preparedness as food and water storage, and financial reserves, there are many other things that are included in really being prepared. As has been mentioned before, we have been counseled to prepare in 8 things for our area. Here they are again as a review:

1. Supply of water
2. Three-month supply of foods you eat on a regular basis
3. A year's supply of foods that stores long term-enough to sustain life
4. Financial reserves
5. Important papers and documents
6. First aid supplies and medications
7. Clothing and bedding to last each family member a year
8. An emergency plan for contacting family members

We have covered all of these things in the 2019 preparedness guide, and all but #8 in the 2020 supplements or goal-setting ideas. Please review these documents on www.ProvidentPapers.com if you need to get information in any of these areas.

Preparedness Is a Process

Remember that preparedness is a process. You should always be working to update and improve.

Besides Elder Bednar's story in the October 2020 General Conference about finding old food storage in a remote closet and properly disposing of it, here are two stories that illustrate the need to make preparedness ongoing and involve family members.

The 20-Year-Old 72-Hour Kits

One sister in our stake realized that it had been a while since she had updated the family's 72-hour kits, so she dutifully took them from where they had been stashed. She found, as she opened them up, that the plastics in them were brittle; the children's clothing were sizes 12, 10, and 7; and the food had been turned to powder by weevil and was unrecognizable. Since her children were now all over age 30 and had families of their own she realized that it had been a lot longer than she thought since she had checked her kits. For years she had believed that her family was prepared because she had put the kits together once. She was glad there had never been an emergency in which she had grabbed the kits and gone only to find they were unusable.

The Bishop's Challenge

One year a bishop in our stake challenged his ward members to go 24 hours without electricity and a week without going to the grocery store. The father in the family insisted that the family take the challenge. His wife had enough food and water in storage to last for a week, but no one had talked about all the other things that would be needed in the event of a power outage or who was in charge of having those things ready. The family did not have a plan or supplies organized to go without electric power for 24 hours. It was a difficult day indeed. This family needed to work together so that they had a plan, supplies, and

they were all informed. Things would have gone a lot better if they had these things in place. While most people don't think of having a power-out kit, it is a good idea to have supplies you would need organized and ready for such an event.

Plans

While plans take time, they do not usually take much money. Sometimes having your family ready intellectually and emotionally is as important as having supplies and kits. Your family should know what to do in an earthquake, a fire, a flood, an extreme storm, or anything that requires evacuation. They should know how to communicate or what to do if they are not home when these things happen.

Preparedness for Christmas

Kits and equipment are good things to consider at Christmas time. Sometimes kids won't understand that, but if your family has talked about the importance of preparedness ahead of time it will help them to value such gifts more.

Goals for Plans, Kits, and Equipment

Level 1

1. Set aside a time each month to meet with your family and present or make a plan as to what you will do in one crisis or one situation each month. Review one plan you have made in previous meetings. Discuss any supplies you might need to carry out your plans and decide who will be in charge of getting and organizing those supplies. Report the next month.
2. Focus on one kind of kit such as a hygiene kit or go bag (not 72hr bag). Buy as many of the supplies as your budget will allow for this kind of kit for each family member for that month.
3. Make sure that family members know where your water shut off valves are and where your gas shut off is. Help them to know how to use these and when it is appropriate.

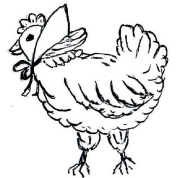
Level 2

1. Evaluate any kits you have put together in the past and update the contents so that they are ready if you need them.
2. Update any plans you have made in the past. If you are unsure of proper procedures to follow in a specific crisis take the time to learn those procedures.
3. Be sure you know who your captain is in your neighborhood and what the proper reporting procedure is in a crisis. Be aware of how government crisis management systems work in case you need to work with them.

Level 3

1. If you have the basics well in hand, consider saving money to buy special equipment in an emergency area you might not have covered. Examples might be a chain saw, cooking equipment, or generator.
2. Prepare a manual of instructions that are specific to different types of emergencies. It is always nice to have this as a reference when people are under stress and may not be thinking as clearly as other times.

Notes from Red Hen



Dear Journal,

Some may think that a hen doesn't need tools and items. However, I assure you that I find such things very nice. I have learned that if I have things organized together I take better care of them, it saves time, and I have them when I need them. I love having the proper tool, and I like kits. I have a sewing kit, a gardening kit, a foraging kit, and a writing kit just to name a few. I also have a cleaning kit and an art kit for my chicks and grandchicks. Hurray for the right tools and kits!