

Emergency Preparedness



The City of Siloam Springs is committed to keeping our community safe, especially during an emergency. This guide gives residents and businesses the information they need to be ready too.



getting ready

Let's work together

1. Make a plan
2. Prepare an emergency kit
3. Know what to do and where to go
4. Know where to get more information

For complete emergency planning information, visit www.ready.gov.

Learn what to do before, during and after an emergency

If disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act. Prepare now for a sudden emergency. Learn how to protect yourself and cope with disaster by planning ahead. This guide will get you started. Discuss these ideas with your family and then write an emergency plan of your own. Post the plan where everyone will see it - on the refrigerator or bulletin board - and practice it regularly.

Make a plan

- Discuss the type of events that are likely to happen in our area. Think about the different ways to respond to a natural disaster, terrorist event, or a major public health emergency.
- Designate a relative or friend as an out-of-area contact with whom family members can relay information.
- If you have children, involve them in the planning - let them be a part of the process. Teach children how and when to dial 911.
- Discuss where to meet, the possibility of needing to evacuate, and sheltering in place.
- Learn alternate ways out of your home and neighborhood in case the usual way becomes blocked.
- Plan how you will transport and protect your pets. Pets are generally not allowed in shelters.
- Write down contact information that may be helpful in an emergency.

Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit

During an emergency, you may not have time to shop or search for supplies, so have an emergency supply kit assembled. Your kit should include items you may need at home or if you have to evacuate. Store your kit in easy to carry containers such as backpacks or plastic crates.

- A three-day water supply (1 gallon per person per day)
- A three-day food supply that won't spoil and a way to open it
- One change of clothing and shoes per person
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person
- A first aid kit that includes family prescriptions
- Emergency tools
- Extra set of car keys
- Toiletries and moist towelettes
- Flashlight
- Extra Batteries
- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members
- Battery-powered radio
- Pet transport carrier and leash
- Pet food for three days
- Goggles (for high wind or blowing embers)
- Face masks (rated "Mk 95")



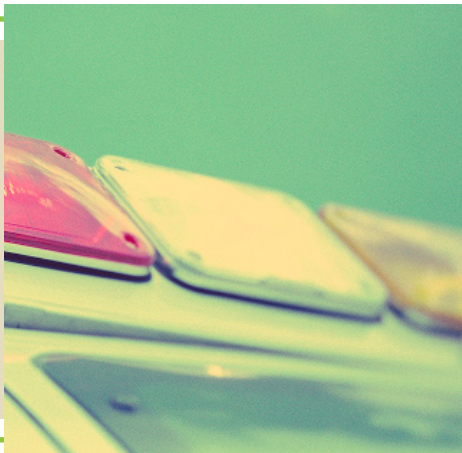
Everyone has their own list of things they wouldn't want to forget in an emergency. Make a list now of the things that are important to you, and be ready to gather them at a moment's notice.

- Prescription medications
- Eyeglasses and contacts
- Important documents (birth certificates, passports, insurance papers and inventory, personal phone and address books, tax, school and vaccination records, photos, etc.)
- Jewelry
- Child's favorite toy or book
- External drive or computer back up
- Cash (in case ATMs are out of service or empty)
- Cell phone and charger
- Laptop and charger

Store a minimum of three gallons of emergency water per person, and plan on using one gallon per person each day. If purified water is not available during an emergency, water should be boiled for one full minute. Let the water completely cool before use. Periodically rotate water and food supplies per manufacturers instructions.

If an emergency or disaster should occur, there are a few things you should do right away.

- **Stay calm.** Try not to panic. Take time to understand what has happened and think about what you can do to stay safe or avoid further injury.
- **Check the scene.** Pay attention to your surroundings to determine if you are safe to stay in your present location. If you believe you are in danger, move to a safer place as quickly as possible.
- **Give and get help.** If you or others are hurt or in danger, call 911. Explain what has happened, where you are, what injuries people have, and whether the danger still exists.
- **Listen for official emergency announcements.** Local radio and TV stations will give emergency updates and instructions and will be your best source of information.
- **Be prepared to evacuate.** If local authorities tell you to leave your home or work, do so right away. Follow evacuation routes and go to the specified shelter or safe area. If you can, bring your emergency kit with you, and get in touch with your family's emergency contact as soon as possible.



Natural Gas Leaks

If you smell a natural gas odor or suspect a leak, remain calm. Do not light a match, candle or cigarette or use spark producing devices. Do not turn electrical appliances or lights on or off. From a safe location, dial 911 or call Source Gas at 1-800-563-0012.

Downed or Broken Power Lines

Stay clear of the line and do not touch it. Call 911.

Always assume the power line is energized. If a person has come into contact with a power line, don't touch the person or any equipment involved. The line may still be energized and could be extremely dangerous.

Plan Ahead

If you live or work in a home or other structure that does not provide adequate protection from high winds or other severe weather, plan ahead. Make arrangements to seek shelter with family, friends, or neighbors anytime severe weather is forecasted. Do not wait until a severe weather event to decide where you and your family will go.

Unfortunately, the City of Siloam Springs does not have a designated facility that can safely operate as a tornado shelter for residents during severe weather events. Therefore, it is very important residents prepare ahead of time for their safety during severe weather.

Stay Informed During an Emergency

Radio:

KLRC 101.1 FM

Television:

Community Channel 245

Website:

www.siloamsprings.com

Take a CPR and First Aid Class

Be prepared!

Contact the American Red Cross for more information at www.redcross.org or call (479) 306-4688.



Sign up for the Benton County Alert System

BC Alert (Benton County Alert) is an alert notification system that allows county officials to immediately contact you during a major crisis or emergency and can deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on your landline phone, cell phones and email accounts.

BC Alert is your connection to real-time updates. BC Alert will give you instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, and who to contact during an emergency. Other important information can also be passed on to you through this notification system. BC Alert is a free service; however, your wireless carrier may charge you a fee to receive messages on your device.

Visit www.bcalert.com for more information and to sign up.



Outdoor Warning Sirens

The City of Siloam Springs has eight outdoor warning sirens. The sirens are used to alert those residents who are OUTSIDE of severe weather. The sirens are not designed to be used as a warning system for people indoors. A map that indicates the location of each siren is available at www.siloamsprings.com.

The sirens are tested on the first Friday of each month at 1 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the siren test will be postponed until the second Friday of the month.

NOAA Weather Radios

Residents are encouraged to purchase a NOAA Weather Warning Radio. These radios will activate and sound an alert for severe weather watches and warnings. They can be purchased at most electronic and hardware stores. The radios can be programmed to receive specific weather alerts for Benton County.

What to do when you hear the warning sirens or weather radio alert

- Listen to the radio or a local television station for severe weather information.
- Stay away from windows and exterior doors and walls.
- Move to a good shelter location such as a basement or underground shelter.
- If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior bathroom, hallway, or closet on the lowest level of the structure.
- Place as many walls between you and the outside of the structure as possible. Try to locate in the centermost room on the lowest level of the building. This will help protect you from glass and other debris.
- If you are outside, hurry to a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.
- If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety - a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.



City of Siloam Springs

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