

Onondaga County "Be Prepared" Fact Sheet:

How You Can Help Our Community

Many of the tips in this package are designed to help you and your household. Here's what you can do to help our community recover from all kinds of emergencies.

Become a Volunteer:

- After a disaster, wait for instructions from local officials or check with specific organizations before going directly to volunteer at a relief organization, hospital, or disaster site.
- Be patient. In the immediate disaster response period there are often many people waiting to volunteer. There may be a greater need for volunteers during the recovery period, weeks and months after disaster strikes.
- It is best to affiliate with a recognized disaster volunteer organization before a disaster happens.

Onondaga-Oswego Chapter of the American Red Cross:

1-315-234-2200 or www.syrard.org

United Way of Central New York:

1-315-428-2211 www.unitedway-cny.org

Make A Donation:

- Making a financial contribution to a volunteer agency involved in disaster relief is often the most sensible and efficient way of helping people in need after a disaster.
- Before donating items, including food or clothing, wait for instructions from local officials or check with a specific organization. Unneeded items overwhelm recovery efforts and may go to waste.
- For more information on donating goods and services during disasters read "When Disaster Strikes" available at www.NVOAD.org.

Resources

Learn More About Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Management:

Federal Emergency Management Office (FEMA) has published a longer, more detailed guide to emergency preparedness called "Are You Ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness." To order this publication, call FEMA's distribution Center at 1-800-480-2520 or visit www.fema.gov/library. The FEMA website, www.fema.gov also contains a great deal of information about preparing for and responding to emergencies.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security:

1-800-BE-READY
(1-800-237-3239)
www.dhs.gov

U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention:

1-800-311-3435 or
www.cdc.gov

Environmental Protection Agency:

1-800-424-8802 or
www.epa.gov

U.S. Department of Energy:

1-800-DIAL DOE
(1-800-352-5363)
or www.energy.gov

National Weather Service:

www.weather.gov

American Red Cross:

1-877-733-2767 or
www.nyredcross.org

Resources for Parents and Families:

Federal Emergency Management Office (FEMA):

www.fema.gov/kids

American Red Cross "Be Ready Book":

www.prepare.org/children/bereadybook.pdf

The Sesame Workshop's safety page:

www.sesameworkshop.org/parents/solutions/safety

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These materials are adapted from the New York City Office of Emergency Management (NYCOEM) "Ready New York" brochure. Onondaga County greatly appreciates NYCOEM's permission to adapt their format for the benefit of our citizens.

For more information, call Onondaga County
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