

## September Preparedness Tips

### Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios may be purchased at most retailers and are the primary tool for alerting people of weather and other emergencies. In conjunction with Federal, State, and Local Emergency Managers and other public officials, the National Weather Service (NWS) also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as tornadoes or hurricanes) and environmental (such as chemical releases). NOAA weather radios will sound an alarm when the National Weather Service issues an emergency alert, followed by a broadcast with details about the emergency; some models can even be programmed for specific geographical areas, allowing you to determine the area(s) covered for which you receive alerts. Visit <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr> for more information.

### Develop a Preparedness Plan

- Make copies of important documents, such as birth certificates, insurance policies (personal, car, home, etc.), passports, driver licenses, lists of bank/investment accounts, etc. Place them in a zip lock bag and add them to your disaster kit next month.
- Pick two places to meet: one right outside your home in case of sudden emergency, like a fire; one outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
- Choose an emergency out-of-state contact. Assure that all family members know your contact's number. After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance.
- Learn about Cobb's outdoor warning system and what you should do if these sirens are activated, including seeking shelter in an interior room preferably with no windows on the lowest floor in a building.
- Locate the main electric box, water service main, and natural gas main. Learn how and when to turn off these utilities. Teach all responsible family members.
- Store necessary tools near gas and water shut-off valves. Contact your local gas or water department for instructions on how to turn these off if necessary during a crisis. Remember to turn off the utilities only if you suspect the lines are damaged or if you are instructed to do so. If you turn the gas off, a professional must turn it back on.
- If you have special health needs, please register on the Special Needs/Populations at Risk data base (<http://ema.cobbcountyga.gov/preparedness.htm>)
- Learn more about planning for pets at <http://www.fda.gov/cvm/disaster.htm>

*You can learn more by contacting the Cobb Emergency Management Agency at <http://ema.cobbcountyga.gov> or by phone at 770-499-4567.*