

Emergency Preparedness Information

Q. Does Bedford have fallout shelters?

A. There are no public storm or fall out shelters in the City of Bedford. Several businesses have basement areas that can be used by their employees should an emergency occur, but they are not open to the public. Several programs, including shelter, are in place.

Q. What should a Household Preparedness Kit contain?

A. The federal government recommends the assembly of household preparedness kits. The kits should contain items your family would need to sustain themselves for three to four days should severe weather or an act of terror occur.

Q. How will Bedford warn people of an emergency?

A. Bedford will utilize several methods to warn the public. We currently have ten outdoor warning sirens that can be used to warn people of severe weather or in the event of a bio-terrorism event, to take cover. Bedford also has access to a cable television override system to allow the delivery of emergency messages over the cable television system. The development of the emergency broadcast system, which includes local television and radio stations, is an immediate way of obtaining information. It is strongly recommended that a television or radio be tuned to a local broadcast station during weather emergencies as well as times of national tension.

Q. What can I do to be prepared if something happens?

A. The federal government suggests we adopt the age old boy scout oath of "be prepared."

- 1.** Have a household preparedness kit with items to sustain them for up to four days.
- 2.** Plan ahead - designate a place away from the metroplex where your family can assemble if an event occurs and you have to evacuate.
- 3.** Select a person in another state or well away from the metroplex that each member of your family can call or report to should you become separated.
- 4.** Be vigilant, know your surroundings and report anything suspicious to law enforcement.
- 5.** Keep informed via local broadcast stations.
- 6.** Remain calm.

Q. What if we have to evacuate?

- A.** Some emergencies may require a localized evacuation from a neighborhood. In these cases, public safety personnel at the scene will provide direction. An emergency could occur that will require mass evacuations. Should such an evacuation become necessary, turn to local television or radio broadcast stations and follow the instructions.

Q. What is Bedford doing to be prepared?

- A.** The City of Bedford has an all hazard emergency response plan. Specific city employees are prepared to respond to our emergency operations center should a weather or terrorist event occur. Public Safety and Public Works personnel are at alert and ready to respond regardless of the disaster. When activated, the Command Staff at the Emergency Operations Center will coordinate the response of city resources to emergency events. Appropriate and necessary mutual aid from other agencies, the State of Texas and the Federal Government can be activated by the Command Staff.

Q. What is "shelter in place?"

- A.** Some emergencies such as hazardous material spills or a bio-terrorism event could require people to take shelter in the structure instead of going outside. If it becomes necessary to shelter in place, it is recommended that:

1. All doors and windows be closed
2. All ventilation, bathroom fans, heating and air conditioning units should be turned off
3. Utilize plastic garbage bags and duct tape to seal doors and windows
4. Do not use open flame heating or lighting devices

Q. Where can I obtain more information about Homeland Security?

- A.** Several internet sites have useful information about homeland security and recommendations to be followed by citizens. Some of them are

1. Department of Homeland Security www.dhs.gov/dhspublic
2. American Red Cross www.redcross.org
3. Texas Emergency Management www.demwmd.net

Some of the above websites have links to other sources of information.

The Police Department stands ready to provide you with information needed to stay informed and safe. Should you have further questions or concerns, please contact us at 817.952.2440.