

News Column

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Preparing for Storm Season

Weather in Kansas can be unpredictable during all seasons, but especially during late spring and early summer. Severe storms can happen unexpectedly and can leave us caught by surprise. Natural disasters like tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes can create a catastrophe for you and your family if you are not prepared.

According to the American Red Cross, creating an emergency preparedness kit and having a plan can help you prepare for when disasters strike. Keeping items that you might need on hand in the case of an emergency can help keep you safe and alleviate some stress.

Getting prepared may sound difficult or time-consuming, but it is very doable if organized in advance.

First, make a kit. Items to think about including would be water, non-perishable food, flashlights, battery-powered radios, a first aid kit, and medications. If you are displaced from your residence or without utilities, items like extra clothing, multipurpose tools, personal hygiene items, copies of important documents, cell phone chargers, blankets, extra cash, and extra sets of keys can be lifesaving.

Second, make a plan that you and all members of your household will know and stick to during emergencies. Discuss what types of events are most likely to happen in your area. In Kansas, we are more likely to experience tornadoes, wildfires, and earthquakes. Plan best locations to stay in during these events such as storm shelters or basements. Go over responsibilities. This might include who is in charge of grabbing your emergency kit if you already have one made.

Lastly, stay informed. Identify how local authorities will notify residents in your area during a disaster and how you can stay in the loop. Our communities are no stranger to these impacts, but they can leave us all in a state of shock. Staying well informed and connected to those around you can help lessen that feeling.

By doing these simple steps ahead of time, you can feel confident that you will be prepared for whatever Mother Nature throws our way this storm season.

For more information about Family and Community Wellness, 4-H Youth Development, or K-State Research and Extension, contact the office at 620-583-7455, email me at celutz@ksu.edu or stop by the office. Visit the K-State Research and Extension - Greenwood County Facebook page and www.greenwood.k-state.edu for more up-to-date information on programming.