

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Disaster Preparedness

The IAFF encourages locals and members living in areas prone to disasters – such as wildfires, tornadoes, hurricanes or floods – to establish a small response team (two to four members) to assist other members and their families in the event of a disaster, including designating members to contact other members and check on their wellbeing.



Don't wait for a disaster to happen to put a plan together.

Flood Insurance. Remind members who live in flood-prone areas or storm surge areas to have flood insurance.

Evacuation Plan. Have an evacuation plan. Where will members and their families go? Who can they stay with? Having a plan can alleviate some of the stress associated with ordered evacuations.

Have a Plan. In some circumstances, members may be required to remain on duty during disasters. Teach family members how to make sure important systems, such as freshwater wells and sump pumps, can be supported by generator power. Plan for your family at home accordingly while you are on duty, including evacuating and identifying safe evacuation locations that your family can travel to.

Hotels. In most disaster areas, outlying hotels fill up very quickly. If you plan to evacuate to a hotel, you may have to drive hundreds of miles to find a vacancy. You may be better off arranging to have your family stay with family or friends outside of the disaster area.

Communications. Communications systems often fail during disasters. In recent hurricanes, some mobile providers were out of operation for several days. Emergency network providers for first responders are available. Including FirstNet, by AT&T.

Individually, members should maintain adequate disaster or emergency supplies.

At a minimum, the following is suggested:

- **Bottled water (four cases)**
- **One (1) small window unit air conditioner**
- **One (1) large fan (for cooling or drying rooms)**
- **Minimum of 5 gallons of fuel**
- **Four (4) heavy-duty tarps**
- **Two (2) boxes of roof nails (for temporary roof repair) and 1-inch plastic cap nails**
- **Ladder (for access to roof)**
- **Minimum of one (1) chainsaw** (Usually, a chainsaw with an 18-inch blade is best.) **Safe tree removal or limb removal should not be done alone.** Seek assistance from other members of your local or neighbors. Some trees, such as pine trees, are especially susceptible to wind damage.
- **Minimum of one (1) generator** (to run essential home items, such as a refrigerator, use a 5000-7500 watt generator; even a small 3000 watt inverter generator can be helpful.) Make sure to take proper generator precautions. **Do not run generators indoors or outside near windows or doors to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Do not run generators in garages, even if the door is open.**