

## **TAP EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

The best Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) is achieved through quality and trained leadership. Every member of the “*Adventure*” crew should prepare to be a leader able to perform and/or assist with any emergency task to the best of their ability and training.

Each *Adventure* will be unique. For example, climbing requires unique equipment, special ropes, helmets, high strength hardware, harness and quality climbing locations. Kayaking, on the other hand, requires the kayak, life jackets (personal floatation devices), helmets and flowing water with rapids suitable for the activity. Should an emergency occur it will be different in terms of the circumstances and the training and equipment needed to respond.

Every member of the *Adventure* crew should be trained in Basic First Aid. It is recommended that the *Adventure* crew members participate together in practicing first aid response, anticipating the conditions they may encounter and experiencing each other’s leadership style should an emergency occur. Alternate routes, leadership, transportation, etc. should be developed and communicated with those left at home. This is the “Plan” portion of Emergency Preparedness.

Be sure everyone in the crew can recognize the different sounds made by fire, smoke, heat, falling rocks and trees, raging water flow, fire alarms and community sirens and warning signals. Prepare to respond appropriately when danger sounds are heard. If an evacuation is required during an emergency pre-plan a safe route and meeting place.

Adult leaders should complete Wilderness First Aid, Wilderness Survival and Water Craft Safety training. First Aid training is provided by the local Red Cross, Fire Department, and Emergency Responders. The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and the Philmont Training Center provide skill training for Adventurers.

Reference materials and guidelines are found in the Boy Scout Handbook and Fieldbook. Also, refer to “The Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety” <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/Sweet16.aspx>

A key to success is practicing first aid skills often. Use different scenarios including indoors, outdoors, inclement weather, snow, night, slippery/muddy conditions, aquatic activities, automobile accidents and more. The crew can get creative in defining conditions for practice. Consider the “unthinkable” for scenarios that test skills and teamwork.

**DO NOT TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS.** When an incident happens provide first responder care within crew members’ skill limits. Contact 911 or emergency services, stabilize the victims, and let the emergency professionals do their work. Follow their instructions and get home safely.

The planning phase should also include equipment and supplies that might be useful to respond to any emergency. What you have at hand when a disaster happens could make a big difference.

**Plan to have enough supplies for everyone in your crew for at least three days:**

1. Water - at least one gallon per person per day (or equivalent water purification capability).
2. Food - non-perishable, high-protein items, including energy bars, ready-to-eat soup, peanut butter, etc. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking, and little or no water.
3. Flashlight, including extra batteries.
4. First aid kit, including a reference guide.
5. Medications - both prescription and non-prescription items.
6. Battery operated weather radio, including extra batteries.
7. Tools - a can opener, screwdriver, hammer, pliers, knife, duct tape, plastic sheeting, and garbage bags and ties.
8. Clothing - a change of clothes for everyone, including sturdy shoes and gloves.
9. Emergency protective blanket.
10. Personal Items - eyeglasses or contact lenses and solution; copies of important papers, including identification cards, insurance policies, birth certificates, passports, etc.
11. Sanitary supplies - toilet paper, towelettes, feminine supplies, personal hygiene items, bleach, etc.
12. Money - cash. (ATMs and credit cards won't work if the power is out.)
13. Contact information including a current list of family phone numbers and e-mail addresses, including someone out of the area who may be easier to reach by e-mail or text if local phone lines are overloaded.
14. Map - consider marking an evacuation or alternate route.

**The Emergency:**

1. What has happened?
2. STOP – Stop-Think-Observe-Plan
3. Do a thorough investigation
4. Determine how many are involved
5. Assess weather conditions
6. Survey the area for any hazards
7. Assess the resources available
8. Determine your backup resources
9. Beware of water dangers including flooding, heavy rain, snow, body waste, chemicals, etc.

**Personal Safeguards:**

1. Gloves
2. Nose/mouth mask
3. Eye protection
4. Flashlight

5. Water
6. Handy-wipes
7. Cell phone
8. GPS
9. Backup batteries

### **References:**

1. Wilderness First Aid – BSA #61009
  2. The Boy Scout Field Book – SKU619044
    - a. Chapter 11 – Emergency Preparedness
    - b. Chapter 12 – Hazards
    - c. Chapter 13 – First Aid
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### **The Plan**

Perhaps the most critical test of your preparedness will be in time of emergency. Developing and rehearsing an emergency action plan will add precious time needed for response to a crisis. This is true on a day hike, overnight or longer crew camp and all other activities.

1. Planning ahead is the first step to a calmer and more assured disaster response. Determine what kinds of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies could occur on your *Adventure*. Make a list of them, then discuss each one and what you should do as a group in each situation. For each type of emergency, establish responsibilities for each member of your crew and plan to work together as a team. Because some crew members might not be available at the time of an emergency, designate alternates in case someone is absent.
2. Be sure everyone in the crew knows how to call 911 (if your *Adventure* route has that service) and other local emergency numbers and how to make calls on different kinds of phones such as cell phones. Gather and post other emergency numbers,
3. Because emergency responders will need an address or directions on where to send help, be sure all crew members know how to describe where they can be found. When dealing with the stress of an emergency, even adult crew members could fail to recall details correctly.
4. Plan an evacuation route and a meeting point in the event all crew members aren't together at the same time for departure..
5. Be sure all crew adults know that in case of emergency, it is their responsibility to keep the crew together, to remain calm and explain to younger crew members what has happened and what is likely to happen next.