



Disaster Preparedness

1. Identify various kinds of natural disasters and develop an action plan to handle each kind. Develop a list of what to do before, during, and after. Go to www.fema.gov/hazards, *Safety-Wise*, and the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook* for information.
2. Invite disaster professionals (firefighter, nurse, veterinarian, state trooper, EMT, rescue squad personnel) to a troop meeting to discuss how they prepare for natural disasters. What are their responsibilities? Have they ever had to use their skills in a real disaster?
3. Contact the local chapter of the American Red Cross. Find out how to make a disaster kit for your home.
4. Create safety posters for display at your school, fire station, and police station. Draw and describe how to stay safe during lightning storms, floods, and tornadoes and describe what to do if the power is out at your home or school.
5. Write thank you letters to people who protect us during disasters. The electric company, the water company, emergency rooms at local hospitals, fire departments, local businesses that may donate food or water, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross all have employees who work under difficult situations to make things better as fast as possible.
6. Do a community service project to collect such things as bottled water, canned food, and batteries to donate to the Salvation Army's Disaster Relief Program or to another organization in your community that has a program for disaster relief. Have each troop member bring items for the troop's disaster preparedness box.
7. Tour the local fire station, talk to an emergency dispatcher, or tour the 911 center. Learn about emergency response systems in your neighborhood.
8. Make a disaster connection. Go to www.fema.gov/kids/k2k.htm to write letters to other kids who have survived a natural disaster. Or if you have experienced a disaster, submit a poem or artwork to share your feelings.
9. Find out about various organizations that help to predict the weather. Learn about the Hurricane Hunters, the National Hurricane Center, and the National Weather Service.

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