

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Are you ready?

Now anyone can build a disaster-resilient home



(MS) — The calamities caused by extreme weather could be better controlled with stepped-up storm prediction, better citizen preparedness and by the ongoing ingenuity of the building sector, say observers in the field of climate change.

Governments, for example, are improving public warning systems and municipal infrastructure maintenance is an ongoing priority. As a direct result of extreme wind, fire and flooding, the damage costs on both public and private buildings in North America are expected to keep tallying into the billions of dollars — but there is good news. Builders already have the technology and means to construct disaster-resilient homes.

“Now you can build a house with hurricane and tornado wind-resistance up to 250 miles per hour,” says Keven Rector at Nudura, the manufacturer of an advanced design for ICFs, insulated concrete forms. “As compared to wood, concrete

walls stand up to the strongest winds and they are also far more sound-resistant, fire-resistant, and give homeowners significant energy savings and occupant health benefits as well.”

The construction system works like this: At the building site, the ICFs interlock (like Lego) to create one thick monolithic wall. The assembly is quick, creates less waste and, according to Rector, this type of insulation material can save you up to 50 percent on your energy bills.

“ICF home-building technology is solving storm security, energy costs, interior air quality, and occupant conservation priorities all at the same time,” he continues. “In addition to greater impact resilience and a fire-protection rating of up to four hours, concrete buildings are more comfortable to live in. For example, eliminated will be the uneven temperatures and drafts we’ve come to tolerate living inside wood framing. And since the walls are less prone to mold

and toxins, the household air will remain reliable and easier to breathe. This rock solid envelope keeps more noise outside, requires far less energy for heating and cooling inside and, by leaving more trees in the forests, every homeowner will be making such a sound contribution to the sustainability of the planet.”

Concrete homes are visually beautiful as well, Rector points out. Choose a finish on the outside like stone, wood siding, stucco, and other aesthetic touches. And on the inside, many innovative architectural shapes like arches, bay windows, and decorative door styles can be easily designed.

“Be sure to request ICFs from your builder early in the planning stages,” he adds. “The system is well over a decade in use, but builders usually default to the standard construction methods if not asked.”

More information is available online at www.nudura.com.

Bit By Bit, Building Your Kit

Part 7

For the past several weeks I have been listing items to purchase to complete a 72 hour disaster preparedness kit. As I have mentioned a 72 hour kit is only a good start. Fourteen days is much better and more if you can manage it. Building an emergency kit does not need to break the bank. Picking up a few extra items now and then will build up over a period of time and before long your pantry is filled with supplies that will carry you through a disaster. But for now the primary plan is to “just do it” and a 72 hour kit is a great start.

Week 7 shopping

List:

1. Small tool kit. Include a wrench (slip-joint wrench like “Channellocks” or water pump pliers) for shutting off utilities, hammer, nails, screwdrivers, screws, duct tape, zip ties and on and on and on.... This is one aspect of the kit that can grow, swell and improve with every trip to the hardware store.

2. Signal flares.

3. Insect repellent. While we’re on this topic, I have recently read about people using

wasp/hornet spray for personal defense. It’s less expensive than pepper spray, reaches out at least 20 feet and temporarily incapacitates anyone intent on causing you harm.

4. Sunscreen.

5. Granola or dry cereal.

6. Extra pet food. Also if your pet requires medication, get some extra for them as well. And don’t forget, your pet requires water.

7. Fire extinguisher. Be sure it carries the ABC rating. If you need training in its use, contact your local fire department.

Tips:

Be sure to include pets in your plan.

When you leave town, take your go-bag along. Disasters don’t always happen while you’re at home. At that point it becomes your “get home” bag.

Keep your car’s gas tank above ½ tank. You never know when you get that call in the middle of the night to go visit your ailing, wealthy aunt in the hospital. Not a time to be out of gas with none available.

Remember, survival is not a kit. Survival is a plan and the kit should be a part of your plan. It is best to keep your kit

in a single location, not strewn about the house, some things in one closet, other items in the basement and yet other things stacked in the garage. Try to set aside an area for all your gear and supplies. When the power goes out and things are mildly chaotic at your house, you don’t want to be searching in the dark for your stuff. Make sure the battery powered lantern is the most easily-located item in your inventory. The power seldom goes out during daylight hours. Flashlights, lanterns and other lighting devices are the first things you will want to get operational. Happy prepping!

This concludes the seven part series on Building Your Kit. As always send your questions and comments to disasterprep.dave@gmail.com. Previous columns are on my blog at www.disasterprepdave.blogspot.com. Dave Robinson is the Postmaster in Bandon, Oregon, and the author of “Disaster Prep For The Rest Of Us,” available at barnesandnoble.com and other online booksellers.



Natural disasters typically lead to a spike in charitable donations. But donors must be wary of scammers looking to take advantage of their generosity.

Warning Signs of Disaster Scams

When natural disasters strike, many people immediately ask what they can do to help. Some may volunteer at disaster sites, while others may offer financial donations from afar.

While donors’ efforts are always sincere, some of the people soliciting those donations may be anything but. The Internet and smartphones have made it easier for criminals to defraud well-intentioned men and women who simply want to help at a time when that help is sorely needed. Fraudulent websites, bulk email solicitations and texting scams that encourage donations are each means by which criminals take advantage of conscientious donors.

As eager as prospective donors may be to lend a financial hand when disaster strikes, it’s important to take the time to confirm that an organization is legitimate and not an operation organized by fraudsters looking to make a fast buck. The following are a handful of red flags that may indicate an organization seeking financial donations in the wake of a disaster is not what it says it is.

• Demands: Legitimate orga-

nizations will never make demands of prospective donors, so men and women should be wary of organizations that solicit on-the-spot donations. Reputable organizations, such as the Red Cross, have enough resources to respond to natural disasters without demanding immediate action from donors.

• Hesitancy to share information: Reputable organizations are transparent with regard to sharing information about their programs, relief efforts and allocation of donations. If solicited by an organization that seems hesitant to share information about itself, donors should politely hang up the phone or walk away.

• Request for personal information: Some scammers will attempt to gather personal information, including social security numbers and credit card numbers, over the phone. Never share your social security number with anyone, and keep in mind that the majority of charities can now accept donations online, removing the need to share credit card information over the phone. Stop speaking with solicitors who continue to

ask for personal information.

• Checks: Some scammers will request that donors make donation checks out to fundraisers and not an actual organization. When making a donation to charity, make the check payable to an organization and not an event. Confirm the organization is legitimate by visiting its website.

• Name: Many fraudsters go to great lengths to defraud well-intentioned men and women. Some even establish fake organizations and websites with names that sound very similar to legitimate charities. Such websites may be linked through fraudulent email solicitations, and they are often designed to mimic the websites of legitimate organizations. Never donate via links in emails. Instead, type the name of a charity into a search engine, confirming it’s the actual charity you wish to work with and not a fraudulent entity with a very similar name.

Donating in the wake of a natural disaster is a thoughtful gesture. But donors must be on the lookout for scammers looking to take advantage of their generosity.

Cottage Grove Area
Habitat for Humanity®

RESTORE

WINTER HOURS:
THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

10AM-4PM

For Drop-off appointments,
after hours, call the office

**We need volunteers for the
ReStore ~ a few hours
each month! Will you help?**

Habitat Office and Warehouse
2155 Getty Circle ~ Unit #1
in the Cottage Grove Industrial Park
South on Hwy 99 past the High School

**DONATIONS
ALWAYS
WELCOME!**

Call 541.767.0358
for more information
Email
info@habitatcg.org

PUT TOGETHER A PLAN

Make sure all the pieces are in place to render you and your family prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

- Listen to radio or television newscasts for the latest weather information, and follow all evacuation directions and suggestions.
- Keep a stock of non-perishable food items as well as bottled water on hand inside your home.
- Keep a 72 Hour Kit on hand inside your home that is easy to get to in the event of a disaster.

For more information and tips on disaster response and preparedness, contact your local emergency services center.
South Lane Fire & Rescue • 233 Harrison Ave, Cottage Grove 541-942-4493 • 55 South 1st Street, Creswell 541-895-2506



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