

CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2015 - ISSUE 6

Welcome to the June edition of the *Children and Disasters Newsletter*! With temperatures rising and the official start of summer later this month, many of you will be heading out of town for some rest and relaxation. We've got an article just for you, with summer travel safety tips that can keep you and your family safe while away from home. Speaking of family—pets are family too! In honor of National Pet Preparedness Month, this month's issue provides readers with a list of items to be included in your pet preparedness kit. You'll also hear from Emily Rosenblum, FEMA Youth Preparedness Council Chairperson, on the importance of getting youth involved in preparedness. Find a full list of articles in this month's newsletter below:

- [PROTECT YOUR PET: JUNE IS NATIONAL PET PREPAREDNESS MONTH](#)
- [YOUNG METEOROLOGIST WEATHERFEST: TEACHING YOUNG STUDENTS ABOUT SEVERE WEATHER](#)
- [STAYING SAFE DURING SUMMER TRAVEL](#)
- [EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: THE NEXT GENERATION](#)
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PROTECT YOUR PET: JUNE IS NATIONAL PET PREPAREDNESS MONTH

When disaster strikes, your pets need you more than ever. Just as you've prepared emergency kits for yourself and your family, you should also consider building a kit for your favorite furry (or perhaps hairless) friend. In honor of National Pet Preparedness Month, we have compiled a list of suggested items to include in your pet preparedness kit. Talking about pet preparedness and assembling a pet preparedness kit can be a great way to introduce kids to preparedness.

Consider including the following in your kit:

- Food and water
- Bowls and a manual can opener (if using canned food)
- Leash, collar, harness, and/or a pet carrier in which your pet can stand up and turn around

- Medications, medical records, and a first aid kit
- Immunization and veterinary records (update as needed)
- Sanitation materials such as a litter box and associated supplies and/or plastic bags
- Photo/description of your pet and a photo of you with your pet
- Documentation of feeding schedule, medical concerns, and other relevant information in case the animal needs to be boarded
- Evacuation information, including a list of pet-friendly hotels or shelters, veterinarian contact information, and contact information for out-of-town family or friends
- If possible: toys, grooming supplies, pet bed



Check out [FEMA's Caring for Animals page](#), the [American Humane Association's Pet Preparedness Month page](#), and the [Humane Society of the United States' Pet Disaster-Preparedness Kit page](#) for more information.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) also provides [Disaster Preparedness resources](#). The ASPCA recommends that pet owners post rescue alert stickers outside their homes to notify rescue workers as to the number and type(s) of pets in the home and provide other relevant information. These [stickers can be ordered for free from the ASPCA](#). The ASPCA also has a [disaster preparedness app with pet-specific information](#).

YOUNG METEOROLOGIST WEATHERFEST: TEACHING YOUNG STUDENTS ABOUT SEVERE WEATHER

A *Children and Disasters Newsletter* reader recently alerted us to some exciting work that is happening with the [Young Meteorologist program](#). Online games and activities, such as the Young Meteorologist program, are a great way for children to learn about many topics, including severe weather. Online resources can share information, reinforce lessons learned in the classroom, and provide opportunities for families to share knowledge. Students without internet access at home may miss out on such educational activities. To overcome that challenge, the Young Meteorologist program was recently piloted as part of an in-person event.

On April 11, 2015, PLAN!T NOW (P!N), the Fayetteville (Alabama) Public Library, local TV stations KNWA and FOX24, the National Weather Service (NWS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Education, and Midland Radio presented the Young Meteorologist WeatherFest at the Fayetteville Public Library. This event combined in-person activities with an opportunity for children to play the Young Meteorologist game in the library's computer lab.

Event organizers wanted to determine if a library would be a suitable venue for sharing the Young Meteorologist program with students who do not have internet access at home. They also wanted to see if the program, which was originally intended for middle school students, could be used with younger students as well. The event showed that both points are resoundingly true!

In-person activities at the WeatherFest included a talk by a local meteorologist, a model flood plain demonstration, a model tornado machine, a portable TV studio where children could present a seven-day forecast, and a visit from Young Meteorologist mascot Owlie Skywarn!



The event organizers are looking to conduct the WeatherFest in other cities in 2016, so if your community would be interested in getting involved, please contact Ron Gird, NWS Outreach Program Manager, at ron.gird@noaa.gov, Christian Garcia, President of the PLAN!T NOW Student Science Advisor Board, at chrisatplanitnow@gmail.com, or Donna Lee, President and Founder of PLAN!T NOW, at donnaatplanitnow@gmail.com. The online program is available to everyone, so even if you aren't

ready to do an in-person event, check out the online game and share it with any young people who might be interested!

STAYING SAFE DURING SUMMER TRAVEL

With winter in the rearview mirror, families across the United States are leaving home for summer vacations. While tropical beaches and other family-friendly destinations can be relaxing, dangers persist.

Check out these summer travel safety tips to ensure that you have a safe, healthy, and fun vacation experience:

- **Travel Safe:** There are precautions you can take to make sure your entire family arrives at your destination safely and in good spirits—everything from making sure you are using the correct safety seat for each child to taking steps to get through airport security smoothly to bringing supplies for keeping children entertained on long trips. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) offers [tips for a number of travel situations](#).
- **Keep Your Guard Up:** The [American Red Cross](#) recommends that you only swim at lifeguard-protected beaches. They also advise individuals to avoid diving headfirst into the water and to be conscious of potentially dangerous aquatic life.
- **Stay Safe In The Sunshine:** The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) encourages individuals of all ages to be cautious when exposed to sunlight. AAP recommends wearing clothing made of tightly woven fabrics, using broad-spectrum sunscreen, avoiding the sun during peak hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), and wearing a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.

For additional information on how to prepare for a family trip, check out these tips from the [National Preparedness Community](#). Have a wonderful summer vacation!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: THE NEXT GENERATION



GETTING UP TO SPEED ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAININGS

By Alex Pasculle, Member Emeritus, FEMA Youth Preparedness Council

Hopefully last month's post got you thinking about the type of emergency management career that might be of interest to you. But what types of training will you need to get that job? Although specific training requirements vary depending on the jurisdiction in which you work, most types of

jobs have a basic set of education requirements. Below, I've highlighted some specific jobs and recommended trainings.

Police Officer: Graduating from a police academy is usually a requirement, and some aspiring police officers choose to get a degree in criminal justice. Such a degree can help with job placement. A civil service test may also be required depending on the department. The following independent study classes, offered by FEMA, may be relevant for police officers or people interested in becoming police officers: [IS-100.b](#), [IS-200.b](#), [IS-700.a](#), and [IS-800.b](#).

Paramedic: Every paramedic must complete and pass state-approved written and practical tests. Prior to taking the tests, there may be 14 months to two years of classes. Specific classes related to Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Awareness or Weapons of Mass Destruction may also be required. Paramedics can also be cross-trained in specific firefighting or rescue skills, as fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) departments often respond to incidents together. [IS-100.b](#), [IS-200.b](#), [IS-700.a](#), and [IS-800.b](#) may also be relevant for paramedics. Training as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) can get you started down the path to becoming a paramedic, and help you decide whether you might be interested in the more extensive paramedic training.

Telecommunications Operator (TCO) or Emergency Dispatcher: TCO or emergency dispatcher training is very dependent on the communications center for which you work, and may be conducted as on-the-job training. A degree in communications or public health can be helpful in obtaining a job. Other classes, like Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD), geography, call taking, and dispatching procedures, are helpful and may be provided by the communications center.

There are plenty of basic classes that may be of interest to anyone thinking about a career in emergency management. Many are available at <https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx>. My favorites are courses geared to Emergency Managers and emergency-related operations. On-the-job training is a big thing in emergency management, so it's a great field if you like learning! My suggestion would be to network with people who have jobs of interest to you, and ask what the training requirements were for their positions.

COUNCIL CORNER WITH YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON EMILY ROSENBLUM



THE IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING YOUTH IN PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS

***By Emily Rosenblum, Chairperson, FEMA Youth
Preparedness Council***

When I was chosen to serve as chairperson for the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council, I was incredibly honored. I knew that my goal was to advocate preparedness to as many people as possible because I believe that for many people, emergency preparedness is lacking. Working on the Youth Preparedness Council has reinforced my belief that youth are invaluable resources that need to be utilized to teach their communities about disasters and preparedness. Young people have the ability and potential to bring about significant changes in social behaviors and attitudes about planning and preparing for disasters.

While no one wants to contemplate disaster, the simple truth is that we are all vulnerable to

experiencing an emergency. Everyone has the potential to be faced with catastrophe, so why would we set limits on who can be trained to help cope with those events? In a perfect world, everyone would have the knowledge necessary to help themselves and their families; we'd have ample time to prepare; and there would be minimal fallout from disasters. However, as we all know, this is not a perfect world and there often isn't much warning of when to be ready. Being prepared does not mean that people will not sustain losses; however, proper preparation can save lives, homes, and personal effects, as well as make recovery easier.

Though many communities have embraced the idea of using youth in their emergency response plans, others claim that the risks are too great and therefore avoid including minors in their trainings, disaster simulations, and planning. What is being overlooked is the fact that youth will be less of a liability if they are trained and know what to do when faced with an emergency. Minors who have learned about preparedness also experience less anxiety during an actual emergency. Proper training allows youth to be effective and essential assets throughout the response and recovery stages. Knowledge gained through programs like Teen CERT empowers youth to act with confidence and enables them to become active participants in emergency efforts. We just need to give youth the opportunity.

CONTACT US

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Online at <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness>

Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services or products. Please let us know about other events and services related to youth preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.

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