

Preparing Our Congregations
in the
Tri-LERT Service Area
for
Emergency Preparedness
Suggested Newsletter or Email Article
Option 2

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Help Our Congregation Be a Prepared Congregation!

Where there is no counsel the people fall; “but in the multitude of
counselors there is safety.” Proverbs 11:14

In the event of an extended emergency, do you have enough **food** and **water** in your home for you and your family to live independently? Where are your important personal **documents**? If your home lost power, do you have a **flashlight** to see and **battery-powered radio** to stay informed? Do you have a **plan** for connecting with your family if you become separated?

According to an American Red Cross survey, only about 40% of Americans have assembled the basic supplies needed to take care of themselves, their families and their neighbors during an emergency. This lack of preparedness poses a challenge not only to individuals, but also to first responders, congregations, governments, and businesses. Taking responsibility for putting together your own Home Emergency Supply Kit will help you play a key role in national preparedness and you can help neighbors and fellow church members if they need assistance.

Our area is vulnerable to large and small incidents that could require tapping into a Home Emergency Supply Kit. Recently, storms have not only generated flash flooding, but some areas have witnessed tornadoes. Extended power outages are also possible with high wind events or earthquakes. Hawaii can also experience the affects of hurricanes and lava flows. Coastal areas, particularly in the northwestern part of California and Hawaii, are subject to tsunamis. Those areas near forested regions are also subject to wildfires during the dry season. Most any area near a highway, railroad line or industrial area can also experience hazardous material events.

Tri-LERT encourages each congregation and their members to prepare a Home Emergency Supply Kit to be ready to respond to any hazard at any time. You, your family and congregation must be ready to go to an interior room or other safe place in your dwelling, a public shelter, or other safe area as soon as you are told to do so by local authorities. Are you prepared? Do you have a plan?

By gathering supplies such as water, non-perishable food, medications, flashlights, and a first aid kit, as well as other supplies, you can take personal responsibility for yours and your families safety, as well as for the safety of your congregation during an emergency or extended crisis. Look for a Home Emergency Supply Kit list in/on the church _____ and plan to make a Kit today!

For more information, please contact Helen Knudson of Lutheran Social Services of Northern California at 415-581-0891 or go to www.cnhdisasterprep.jimdo.com.