EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: THE TIME IS NOW!

To some of us, the winter storm of December 31, 2005 seems like a long time ago. To many others, especially those who have yet to fully recover, the storm seems like yesterday. And, the return of the rainy season is a gentle reminder for all of us to take affirmative steps to make ourselves as “disaster-proof” as possible.

Cities and county government in Marin are continuously reviewing and updating their local emergency management plan in order to provide the most accurate information and standard operating procedures. These plans are an integral part of the State of California statewide management system and meet all the requirements of that system.

The City of Novato’s Emergency Management Team, which includes representatives from all city departments, Novato Fire Protection District, local agencies and others involved in the disaster planning and response in the City of Novato meet regularly to train, practice and discuss disaster preparedness strategies. The City of Novato participated with local agencies in a countywide disaster training drill on November 15, 2006.

Your Role – In the event of a disaster, electricity, gas, water and telephones may not be working. Safety services such as fire, police and medical will be busy handling the most serious crises. The City of Novato recently provided every city employee with a basic emergency supply kit and we recommend that every citizen prepare an emergency supply kit for their family. A basic emergency supply kit includes:

- A minimum of a three day’s supply of water (one gallon per person per day)
- Non-perishable, packaged or canned food and a manual can opener (don’t forget pet food)
- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- A first aid kit and prescription medications
- An extra pair of glasses
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries
- Credit cards, cash and an extra set of car keys
- A list of family physicians
- Copies of critical papers such as your driver’s license, insurance papers and birth certificates
- Special items needed for infants, elderly or disabled family members and pets
- **Important telephone numbers**, especially out-of-state contacts

Store your disaster supplies in a sturdy but easy-to-carry/move container such as a large duffel bag or plastic garbage can. Replace certain supplies, such as water and food, every six months. Keep a smaller version of the kit in your vehicle. If you become stranded or are not able to return home, having some items with you will help you be more comfortable until help arrives. A disaster preparedness checklist is available on the City of Novato website.
The best preparation for a rainstorm is to make sure that your roof, retaining walls, etc. are in good condition and rain gutters are free from debris. The City of Novato has sand and bags available for all residents at the City of Novato Maintenance Yard located at 550 Davidson, Novato. Please note that citizens are responsible for supplying their own labor, shovels and support. Also note these important numbers and the City website address.

- Life Threatening Emergency - 911
- Non-Emergency Police Business Line - 415-897-4361
- City of Novato General Information - 415-899-8900
- City of Novato Maintenance Yard - 415-899-8280
- Disaster Preparedness Information - 415-899-7007
- City of Novato Website - [www.ci.novato.ca.us](http://www.ci.novato.ca.us)

Begin your preparation now…Don’t wait until it is too late.
Are you prepared to survive in case of an emergency? Make preparing for 72 hours of survival in case of a disaster your New Year’s resolution for 2006! This easy to follow checklist is designed to take the guess work out of putting together the supplies and tools needed to take care of yourself and your loved ones. Be sure to keep these items in a plastic container secured with an easy to remember combination lock.

### Essentials
- Water – 1 gallon per person per day minimum
- Water purification kit & household bleach
- Essential medications, extra pair of eyeglasses
- Portable radio, flashlight & spare batteries
- Toiletries (All purpose soap, hair care, tooth care, feminine, hygiene, toilet paper, bag for hygiene waste)
- Food (one week’s supply per person, non-perishable)
- Tent, blankets, sleeping bags (1 per person)
- Change of clothing & backpack
- Extra set of house & car keys
- Fire Extinguisher – ABC Type
- Food, water & restraint for pets
- Cash & change, paper, pen & stamps
- Baby supplies (diapers, clothes etc.)
- Tarps, rain ponchos & warm packs

### Tools and Supplies
- Axe, shovel, broom, work gloves, sturdy shoes
- Adjustable wrench for gas shut off
- Basic tool kit (pliers, screwdriver and hammer)
- Coil of 1/2” rope, knife and/or razor blades
- Plastic tape, staple gun, sheeting for window replacement
- Copy of home insurance policy plus contact number
- Bicycle & local area/city map
- Garden hose for siphoning & firefighting
- Road flares, light sticks, candles & matches
- Large plastic trash bags & trash cans

### Cooking
- Plastic utensils, cups & plates (for each person in household)
- Heavy duty aluminum foil, plastic wrap & paper towels
- Can opener (non-electric)
- Camp stove for outdoor cooking (Caution: be sure no gas leaks are present before lighting)

Para una versión en español, visita por favor el sitio web de www.novatofirefoundation.org.