



# Emergency Preparedness

## Merit Badge Workbook

Read "the merit badge pamphlet on the subject...meet the requirements as they are stated." - [Boy Scout Requirements pp. 22-23](#)

Each "Scout must be reviewed individually by the counselor." - [Advancement Policies p. 26](#) See the [Online Resources](#).

Workbook developer: [craig@craiglincoln.com](mailto:craig@craiglincoln.com). Requirements revised: 2008, Workbook updated: April 2009.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Ph #: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Earn the First Aid merit badge. \_\_\_\_\_

*(Per National, other requirements may be completed before you earn First Aid merit badge because: "Unless otherwise specified, work for a requirement can be started at any time." - [Boy Scout Requirements p. 22](#))*

#### 2. Do the following:

a. Discuss with your counselor the aspects of emergency preparedness:

1. **Prepare** for emergency situations \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Respond** to emergency situations \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. **Recover** from emergency situations \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Mitigate** and prevent emergency situations \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Include in your discussion the kinds of questions that are important to ask yourself as you consider each of these.

b. Make a chart that demonstrates your understanding of each of the three aspects of emergency preparedness in requirement 2a with regard to 10 of the situations listed below. **You must use situations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5** below in boldface but you may choose any other five listed for a total of 10 situations. Discuss this chart with your counselor.

Situation	Prepare	Respond	Recover	Mitigate
1. Home kitchen fire				
2. Home basement/ storage room/garage fire				
3. Explosion in the home				
4. Automobile accident				
5. Food-borne disease (food poisoning)				
6. Fire or explosion in a public place				
7. Vehicle stalled in the desert				
8. Vehicle trapped in a blizzard				
9. Flash flooding in town or the country				
10. Mountain/ backcountry accident				
11. Boating accident				
12. Gas leak in a home or a building				
13. Tornado or hurricane				
14. Major flood				
15. Nuclear power plant emergency				
16. Avalanche (snowslide or rockslide)				
17. Violence in a public place				

c. Meet with and teach your family how to get or build a kit, make a plan, and be informed for the situations on the chart you created for requirement 2b. Complete a family plan. Then meet with your counselor and report on your family meeting, discuss their responses, and share your family plan. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Show how you could safely save a person from the following:**

a. Touching a live household electric wire \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. A room filled with carbon monoxide \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Clothes on fire \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. Drowning using nonswimming rescues (including accidents on ice) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Show three ways of attracting and communicating with rescue planes/aircraft.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. With another person, *show* a good way to move an injured person out of a remote and/or rugged area, conserving the energy of rescuers while ensuring the well-being and protection of the injured person.

**6. Do the following:**

a. Tell the things a group of Scouts should be prepared to do, the training they need, and the safety precautions they should take for the following emergency services:

**1. Crowd and traffic control**

Be prepared to do: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Training they need: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Safety Precautions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Messenger service and communication**

Be prepared to do: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Training they need: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Safety Precautions: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Collection and distribution services**

Be prepared to do: \_\_\_\_\_

Training they need: \_\_\_\_\_

Safety Precautions: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Group feeding, shelter, and sanitation**

Be prepared to do: \_\_\_\_\_

Training they need: \_\_\_\_\_

Safety Precautions: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Identify the government or community agencies that normally handle and prepare for the emergency services listed under 6a, \_\_\_\_\_  
and explain to your counselor how a group of Scouts could volunteer to help in the event of these types of emergencies.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Find out who is your community's emergency management director \_\_\_\_\_  
and learn what this person does to **prepare, respond to, recover from, and mitigate and prevent** emergency situations in your  
community. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Discuss this information with your counselor and apply what you discover to the chart you created for requirement 2b.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Take part in an emergency service project, either a real one or a practice drill, with a Scouting unit or a community agency.** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**8. Do the following:**







## Sample Home Safety Checklist

*Sample Checklist for Requirement 9 a.* Check safety steps that being taking in your home. Write N/A if the item is not applicable. Items left blank may present a safety hazard. This list provides some sample safety steps you might take. See your Safety Merit Badge pamphlet and counselor for more information. Ask your parent or guardian before making any changes.

### Stairways, Halls, and Outdoor Steps

- Stairways with three or more steps have a strong handrail.
- Stairs/halls are kept free from boxes, toys, brooms, tools, etc.
- Gates at top and bottom of stairs prevent children from falling.
- The head and foot of stairs have no small or loose rugs.
- Stair carpeting or covering is fastened securely.
- Stairways & halls have good lighting, controllable at each end.

### Kitchen

- Matches are kept where children cannot get them.
- Knives & sharp instruments are kept in knife drawers or holder.
- Can openers don't leave sharp edges on cans.
- Disinfectants & cleaning products are out of reach of children.
- Pan handles are turned away from stove edges.
- Spilled grease, water, or bits of food are wiped up immediately.
- Pot holders are within easy reach.
- A fire extinguisher is mounted near the stove.

### Bathroom

- Tub and shower are equipped with strong handholds.
- Tub floor has non-slip surface.
- Poisons are marked, sealed shut, and out of reach of children.
- Medicines are out of reach of children in childproof containers.
- No one takes medicine in the dark.

### Attic and Basement

- Ladder is strong, solid, and sturdily constructed.
- Stairway is sturdy and well lighted.
- Children keep skates and play gear in a specific place.
- Walls and beams are free from protruding nails.
- Fuses or circuit breakers are the proper size.
- Rubbish & flammable materials are in covered metal cans.
- Wastepaper is kept away from furnace and stairs.

### Living Room and Dining Room

- Furniture is placed to allow easy passage in an emergency.

- Before bedtime, furniture placement is checked for orderliness.
- Furniture and woodwork solid, in good repair, and free from.
- Fireplace screen fits snugly.
- Rugs are fastened or laid on non-slip pads.
- Rugs are kept from curling at their edges.
- Wax on floors is thoroughly buffed.
- Fire in fireplace is extinguished at bedtime.
- Candles are in stable holders and fully extinguished after use.

### Bedroom

- Smoke alarm has fresh battery or electrical connection & is tested regularly.
- Carbon monoxide detector has fresh battery or electrical connection and is tested regularly.
- Furniture placement for clear passage between bed and door.
- Light switch or lamp is within easy reach from bed.
- A night-light illuminates bedroom or hall.
- Bureau and dresser drawers are closed when not in use.
- Bar across bunk beds helps prevent falls.
- Children are taught not to lean against windows or screens.
- Sturdily screen low windows to prevent children from falling.
- Smoking in bed is prohibited.
- Gas and electric heating devices are turned off at bedtime.

### Nursery

- Bars on cribs are closely spaced.
- Crib is approved by Consumer Products or similar.
- Crib is free from sharp edges or corners.
- Sleeping garments and covers keep baby warm without danger of smothering.
- Pillows are kept out of bassinet or crib.
- No thin, plastic material is in or near the crib.
- Children are taught not to give marbles, etc. to younger children.
- Toys are sturdy & have no sharp edges.
- Nontoxic paint is used on baby furniture and toys.
- All houseplants are nonpoisonous.

**Sample Home Safety Checklist** (page 2)**Stoves, Furnaces, and Heaters**

- Stoves are away from curtains.
- Stoves & furnaces are inspected & cleaned annually.
- Gas burners are properly adjusted and free from leaks.
- Gas water and space heaters are equipped with vents or flues.
- Water heater or boiler has a safety valve & is checked yearly.
- Flames of gas burners are protected from drafts.
- Insulating shield protects woodwork within 18" of furnace, etc.
- Keep flammable materials away from stoves, furnaces, etc.
- A wrench is stored near the shut-off valve of outside gas line.

**Porch, Yard, and Garage**

- Railings and banisters are sound and inspected periodically.
- Steps and walks are kept free from ice and snow.
- Yard/play space are free from holes, stones, glass, etc.
- Tools and dangerous articles are out of reach of children.
- Dangerous products & chemicals are kept in original containers in locked storage areas.
- Wires and low fences are brightly painted or clearly marked.
- Wells, cisterns, and pits are kept securely covered.
- Disposable materials are not burned outside.
- An area is marked off in the garage for bicycles, wagons, etc.
- Lawn mower is equipped with proper safeguards.

**Workshop**

- Good ventilation exists, especially when sanding.
- Safety goggles and/or face mask are available, with eyewash.
- Baking soda is kept handy to neutralize acid burns.
- All electrical tools are either three-wire or double-insulated.
- Work area is well lit & free of clutter, scraps, rags.
- All tools have a place & are in their place.
- Guards are in place on all power tools.
- A push stick is available for use with power saws.

**Electrical Devices and Fixtures**

- Electrical fixtures and appliances are located & used beyond arm's length of the sink, stove, tub, shower, or other grounded metal unless outlet is protected by a ground-fault interrupter.
- Do not touch electrical fixtures or appliances with wet hands.
- Disconnect seldom-used appliances when not in use.
- All pull-type sockets have an insulating link.

- Household appliances are disconnected before repairs.
- Unused, open, screw-type sockets are plugged closed.
- Frayed or worn electric cords are promptly replaced.
- Long trailing cords are not in evidence.
- Cords are kept out from under rugs, doors, and furniture.
- UA-approved extension cords are the proper size.
- Children are taught never to touch electric sockets or fixtures.
- Fuses are adequate for the load and are not bypassed.
- Circuit breakers are not overloaded.

**General**

- At least one smoke detector in each bedroom & garage.
- Everything has a place and is in its place.
- Stepladders are in good repair and stored out of the way.
- Window screens and storm windows are securely fastened.
- Guns are stored unloaded and in locked cases.
- Guns and ammunition are stored separately.
- Children are permitted to use only blunt-end scissors.
- Housework clothing has no drooping sleeves, sashes, or frills.
- Shoes worn for housework have low heels.
- All shoes are in good repair.
- Kerosene, gasoline, paint thinners, and other volatile materials are stored outside in special, clearly marked metal containers.
- Oil mops, dust rags, painting equipment, and other oily materials are stored outside in open metal containers.
- Everyone turns on a light before entering a dark room.
- Matches are extinguished before they're thrown away.
- Children are never permitted to play with matches.
- Fire extinguishers are readily available.

**For Emergency**

- Know how to get emergency help (911, poison control, etc.).
- Be able to find water, gas, & electric shutoffs. Check annually.
- First aid kit approved by your doctor/American Red Cross.
- Know basic first aid procedures.
- Have a fire escape plan from your home.
- Emergency water supply.
- Handheld flashlights readily available.
- In earthquake-prone areas, make sure that the water heater and bookcases are bolted to the walls.