

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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**American  
Red Cross**

The Boy Scouts of America is indebted to the American Red Cross for its subject matter expertise, review, and other assistance with this edition of the *Emergency Preparedness* merit badge pamphlet.

*"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"*



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# Requirements

1. Earn the First Aid merit badge.
  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 aspects of emergency preparedness in requirement 2a (prepare, respond, recover, mitigate and prevent) 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 here for a total of 10 situations. Discuss this chart with your counselor.

**(1) Home kitchen fire**

**(2) Home basement/storage room/garage fire**

**(3) Explosion in the home**

**(4) Automobile crash**

**(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 in the country

(10) Mountain/backcountry accident

(11) Boating or water 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 transport 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
    - (2) Messenger service and communication
    - (3) Collection and distribution services
    - (4) Group feeding, shelter, and sanitation
  - 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:
  - a. Prepare a written plan for mobilizing your troop when needed to do emergency service. If there is already a plan, explain it. Tell your part in making it work.
  - b. Take part in at least one troop mobilization. Before the exercise, describe your part to your counselor. Afterward, conduct an "after-action" lesson, discussing what you learned during the exercise that required changes or adjustments to the plan.

- c. Prepare a personal emergency service pack for a mobilization call. Prepare a family emergency kit (suitcase or waterproof box) for use by your family in case an emergency evacuation is needed. Explain the needs and uses of the contents.
9. Do ONE of the following:
- a. Using a safety checklist approved by your counselor, inspect your home for potential hazards. Explain the hazards you find and how they can be corrected.
  - b. Review or develop a plan of escape for your family in case of fire in your home.
  - c. Develop an accident prevention program for five family activities outside the home (such as taking a picnic or seeing a movie) that includes an analysis of possible hazards, a proposed plan to correct those hazards, and the reasons for the corrections you propose.



# Emergency Preparedness Resources

## Scouting Literature

*Boy Scout Journal; Backpacking, Camping, Canoeing, Cooking, Cycling, Electricity, Fire Safety, First Aid, Hiking, Home Repairs, Lifesaving, Motorboating, Nature, Orienteering, Pioneering, Public Health, Radio, Rowing, Safety, Search and Rescue, Small-Boat Sailing, Snow Sports, Swimming, Traffic Safety, Weather, and Wilderness Survival* merit badge pamphlets

For more information about Scouting-related resources, visit the BSA's official online retail catalog (with your parent's permission) at <http://www.scoutstuff.org>.

## Books

American Red Cross. *American Red Cross Water Safety Handbook*. StayWell, 2004.

———. *First Aid/CPR/AED for Schools and Communities* (participant's manual). Staywell, 2006.

———. *Responding to Emergencies* (participant's manual). Staywell, 2007.

Forgey, William W. *Basic Essentials: Wilderness First Aid*, 3rd ed. Falcon Guides, 2007.

Kelly, Kate. *Living Safe in an Unsafe World: The Complete Guide to Family Preparedness*. New American Library Trade, 2000.

Meyer-Crissey, Pamela, and Brian L. Crissey, Ph.D. *Common Sense in Uncommon Times*. Granite Publishing, 2002.

U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. *First There First Care: Bystander Care for the Injured*. DOT HS 809 853, 2005.



The following emergency preparedness resources from the American Red Cross may be of particular interest to Scouts, Scout leaders, and merit badge counselors.

**Masters of Disaster™  
Educator's Kit,**  
No. A1140EDU.

**Masters of Disaster™  
Family Kit,**  
No. A1140FAM.



## Organizations and Websites

### American Red Cross

Toll-free telephone: 800-733-2767  
Website: <http://www.redcross.org>

### American Veterinary Medical Association

Website: <http://avma.org>

### Citizen Corps/Community Emergency Response Teams

Website:  
<http://www.citizen corps.gov/cert>

### Environmental Protection Agency

Telephone: 202-272-0167  
Toll-free telephone for literature  
requests only: 800-490-9198  
Website: <http://www.epa.gov>

### Federal Emergency Management Agency

Telephone: 800-621-3362  
Toll-free telephone for literature  
requests only: 800-480-2520  
Website: <http://www.fema.gov>

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Telephone: 202-482-6090  
Website: <http://www.noaa.gov>

### Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Website: <http://www.usraces.org>

### Ready.gov

Telephone: 202-282-8000 or  
202-447-3543 TTY  
Website: <http://www.ready.gov>

### U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Telephone: 202-282-8000  
Website: [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)

### U.S. Department of Transportation

NHTSA Office of Emergency  
Medical Services  
Telephone: 202-366-5440  
Website: [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

### U.S. Geological Survey

Toll-free telephone: 888-275-8747  
Website: <http://www.usgs.gov>