



September 17, 2019

Dear Citizens:

September is National Preparedness Month. Sometimes we go through our days and weeks in our regular routine, comfortable in our homes and vehicles, probably driving the same routes most days, not thinking about what could change in our environment in a moment's notice. Each year in North Central Texas we have an average of 12 tornadoes, 258 severe thunderstorm events, 68 flash flood events and 5 people lose their lives to excessive heat. Are we really prepared? Here are some general tips to think about and practice.

- Make a family emergency plan that includes your pets and your neighbors. This communication plan should include where and how to reconnect and reunite when disaster strikes.
- Identify an out-of-town emergency contact who can let family and friends know where to find you.
- Get to know your neighbors and have a dialogue on what you will do during a crisis.
- Build a Kit: This FEMA message suggests having three days of food, water, medicine, and necessities on hand at all times.
- Build an emergency kit for work and your car – include a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies for adults and children.
- Review your insurance policies and keep copies in a secure, waterproof location.
- Safety reminders for the holidays – check for damage before plugging in lights, don't overload extension cords, and post a reminder to water live greenery daily.
- Make sure any space heater you buy carries the mark of an independent testing lab on the tag or sticker. Position heaters 36 inches away from anything flammable.

More information will follow during September about two excellent tools the City and County offer citizens.

Sincerely,

Don Denbow  
Mayor