

Pride in Public Service

Congratulations to Tyler Dugan for his promotion to Industrial Electrician and to Rob Scates, recently promoted to Waste Water Foreman!

September is National Preparedness Month

Our public safety departments are asking that you:

PLEDGE TO PREPARE

People have a tendency to think that disasters will not happen where they live. Sadly, recent events have proven they can – fires, earthquakes, severe winter storms and floods have occurred across our state. We must accept this as reality and assume responsibility by taking action to prepare ourselves, our loved ones, homes, pets and neighborhoods.

The likelihood that you and your family will recover from a disaster or emergency event tomorrow often depends on the planning and preparation done today. Following a major disaster or emergency event, first responders may not be able reach you to help. Factors such as number of injuries, communication failures and even road blockages can prevent people from receiving emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice.

Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance: how you will get to a safe place; how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations. Take these steps and get prepared.

Basic Preparedness Steps:

- Stay Informed about types of emergencies that can occur and know the appropriate responses
- Make a Family Emergency Plan
 - You may not be together as a family when an emergency happens. Consider what to do if there is no access to cell phones, gas stations, grocery stores, ATMs, etc.
 - Identify a common out-of-town contact for your family
 - Know school and work plans
 - Identify meeting places
 - Make a plan for your pets
- Build a Kit
 - Disasters can happen anywhere and at anytime
 - Be prepared with emergency supplies kits in the places where you and your family spend large amounts of time – at work, in your car, at home, etc.

Evacuation Routes

- Plan where you will go if an emergency happens
 - Evacuations are more common than many people realize. Fires and floods cause evacuations most frequently across the U.S. and almost every year, people along coastlines evacuate as hurricanes approach. If you are told to evacuate, have a plan on where you will go. Make sure you have several destinations in different directions.
- Plan driving routes and alternates

- Plan how you will assemble your family and supplies and anticipate where you will go for different situations. Choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in an emergency and know the evacuation routes to get to those destinations.
- Plan for public transportation options if you do not have a vehicle
 - If you do not have a car, know public transportation options. If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

Self-reliance in Disasters

- Preparedness is an individual responsibility
 - This is why being prepared is so important. Being responsible for knowing what to do before, during and after a disaster enables you to stay safe during the event and allows first responders to assist those in greatest need.
 - Self-reliance extends to helping neighbors and friends. Be ready to lend a hand to those in need. Data shows 90 percent of disaster survivors are rescued by a neighbor. Talk to your neighbors and plan for how you will work together to ensure everyone stays safe in the event of an emergency.

For More resources visit:

[Ready.gov/build-a-kit](https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit), [Ready.gov/make-a-plan](https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan), [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)

[Ready.gov/caring-animals](https://www.ready.gov/caring-animals), [Ready.gov/evacuating-yourself-and-your-family](https://www.ready.gov/evacuating-yourself-and-your-family)