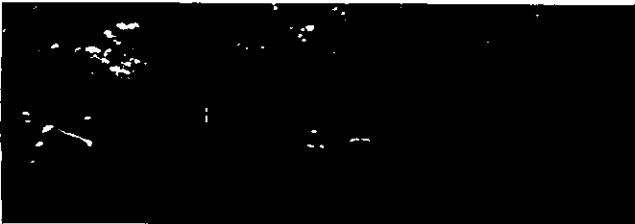
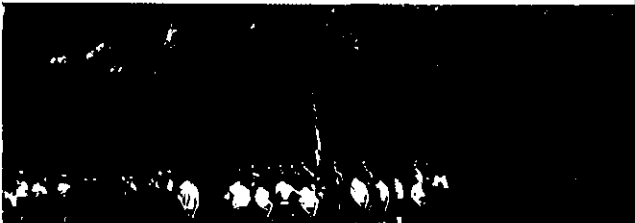


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## MERIT BADGE SERIES



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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Though intended as an aid to Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and qualified Venturers and Sea Scouts in meeting merit badge requirements, these pamphlets are of general interest and are made available by many schools and public libraries. The latest revision date of each pamphlet might not correspond with the copyright date shown below, because this list is corrected only once a year, in January. Any number of merit badge pamphlets may be revised throughout the year; others are simply reprinted until a revision becomes necessary.

If a Scout has already started working on a merit badge when a new edition for that pamphlet is introduced, *he may continue to use the same merit badge pamphlet to earn the badge and fulfill the requirements therein.* In other words, the Scout need not start over again with the new pamphlet and possibly revised requirements.

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American Business	2002	Entrepreneurship	2006	Photography	2005
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American Heritage	2005	Family Life	2005	Plant Science	2005
American Labor	2006	Farm Mechanics	2008	Plumbing	2004
Animal Science	2006	Fingerprinting	2003	Pottery	2008
Archaeology	2006	Fire Safety	2004	Public Health	2005
Archery	2004	First Aid	2007	Public Speaking	2002
Architecture and Landscape Architecture	2010	Fish and Wildlife Management	2004	Pulp and Paper	2006
Art	2006	Fishing	2009	Radio	2008
Astronomy	2010	Fly-Fishing	2009	Railroading	2003
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Automotive Maintenance	2008	Gardening	2002	Reptile and Amphibian Study	2005
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Engineering	2008	Pets	2003		

## HOW TO USE THIS PAMPHLET

The secret to successfully earning a merit badge is for you to use both the pamphlet and the suggestions of your counselor.

Your counselor can be as important to you as a coach is to an athlete. Use all of the resources your counselor can make available to you. This may be the best chance you will have to learn about this particular subject. Make it count.

If you or your counselor feels that any information in this pamphlet is incorrect, please let us know. Please state your source of information.

Merit badge pamphlets are reprinted annually and requirements updated regularly. Your suggestions for improvement are welcome.

Send comments along with a brief statement about yourself to Youth Development, S209 • Boy Scouts of America • 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane • P.O. Box 152079 • Irving, TX 75015-2079.

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
MERIT BADGE SERIES

EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS



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.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## Note to the Counselor

The Boy Scouts of America believes that its youth members need adult contacts to help them develop character, citizenship, and fitness. As a merit badge counselor, you have subscribed to these aims of Scouting.

The *Guide to Safe Scouting*, No. 34416, is updated every year and is available from your local council Scout shop. It is also accessible online at the official BSA website: <http://www.scouting.org>. As an Emergency Preparedness merit badge counselor, this booklet may be particularly helpful to you. You should always review this document before any Scouting activities, including field trips and trips into the community.

Some BSA local councils have both risk management and health and safety committees; or these committees may be combined. In the BSA, risk management is an administrative function (prevention, funding); health and safety is a program function (assuring implementation of safe programs). These committees may be helpful as you plan Scouting activities in your area. The protection of our youth members is as vital as development of their career and hobby interests, which is the merit badge program's basic function. Your active participation in and support of this goal is appreciated.

## Acknowledgments

The Boy Scouts of America gives special thanks to members of the BSA Health and Safety Committee, in particular David Bell, Ph.D.; Rick Mason; Arthur Mittelstaedt Jr., Ed.D.; and Sven Rundman, for their assistance. We also thank the following subject matter experts from the Office of Health Affairs, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, for their contributions to this pamphlet: Scouter Darrell Donahue, Ph.D., American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow; Assistant Secretary and Chief Medical Officer Jeffrey Runge, M.D.; Donald Noah, DVM, MPH, special advisor; and Tom McGinn, DVM, chief veterinarian.

**The Boy Scouts of America is grateful to the American Red Cross for providing hands-on assistance from beginning to end with this edition of the Emergency Preparedness merit badge pamphlet. In particular, the BSA would like to thank the following individuals from the American Red Cross National Headquarters, Preparedness and Health and Safety Services: John E. Hendrickson (who is also a member of the BSA Health and Safety Committee); Jean Ertdmann; Victoria Melvin; Laurie Willshire, MPH, BSN; and Joscelyn Silsby, MPH, CHES.**

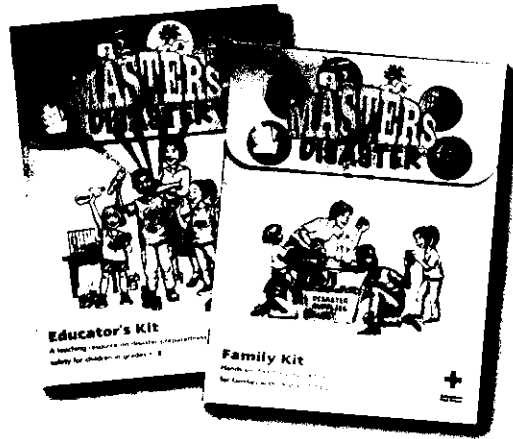
**Thanks also to Scott Meyer, Disaster Services, Mass Care.**



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/disaster/saving\\_family.asp](http://avma.org/disaster/saving_family.asp)

#### Citizen Corps/Community Emergency Response Teams

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

#### Environmental Protection Agency

Telephone: 202-260-2090  
Toll-free telephone for literature requests only: 800-490-9198  
Website: <http://www.epa.gov>

#### Federal Emergency Management Agency

Telephone: 202-566-1600  
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>

## 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) 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

## 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, 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.

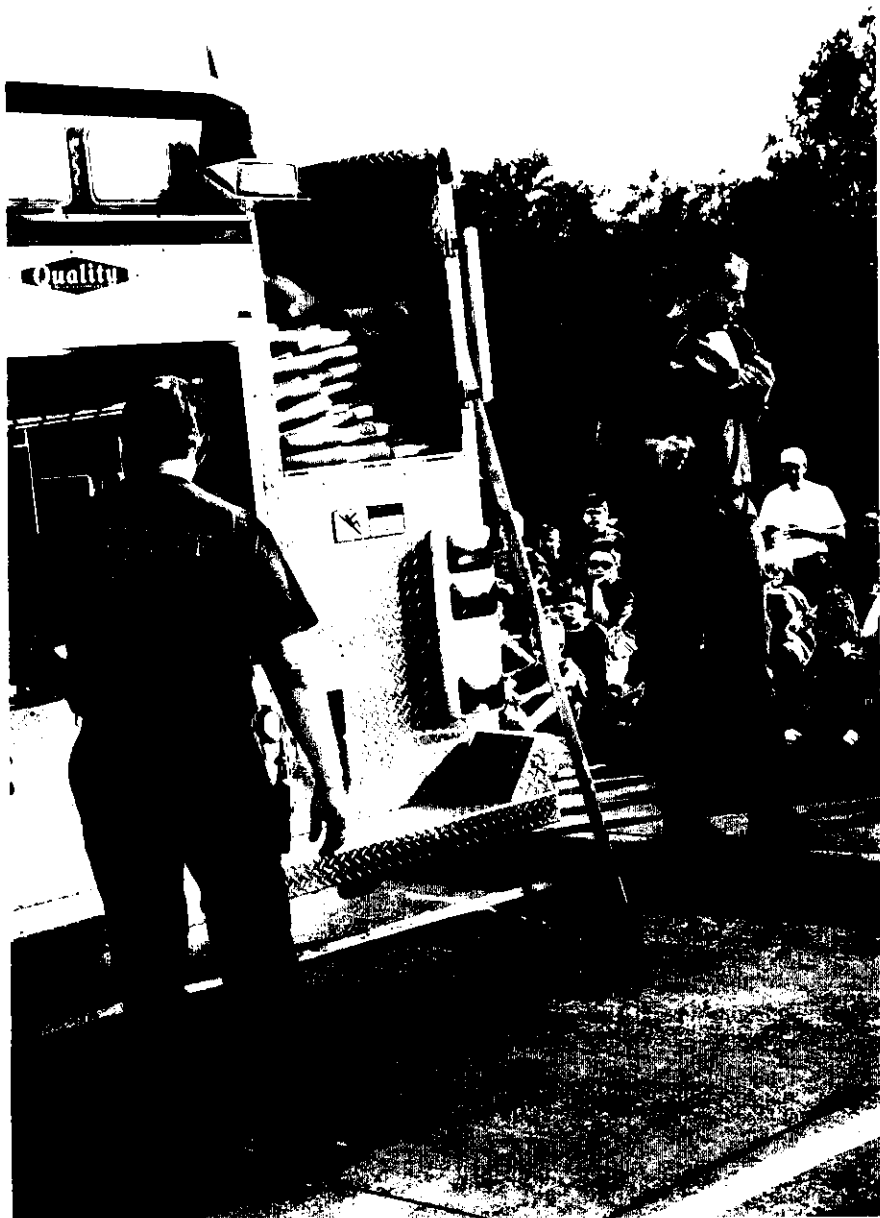
———. *Responding to Emergencies* (participant's manual). Staywell, 2007.

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.



- 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.

### Messenger Service Project

Operating a messenger service is one way Scouts can give meaningful service during an emergency and help free community officials so that they can utilize their specialized skills. This project will test your troop's ability to organize and work as a team.

At a convenient time (a weekday evening, perhaps, or a Saturday afternoon), call an emergency mobilization of the troop. When all patrols are at the unit meeting place, give each patrol leader a list of 10 to 15 prominent places in the community, such as police and fire stations, drugstores, service stations, and places of business or government. (Use a different list of contacts for each patrol so that busy people are not disturbed repeatedly to sign messages.) Give each patrol leader enough copies of this suggested note to cover the list.

If you hold this mobilization in the evening, you could end it with a special campfire program.

Greetings:

The Boy Scouts of Troop [your troop number] are being tested for their effectiveness as messengers in the event of a community disaster. Please write or stamp on this note the exact time of delivery and sign it so that the Scout may show me the effectiveness of his effort.

Thank you.

[signature]  
Scoutmaster

### Other Projects

With the help of your Scoutmaster and other troop leaders, you can follow the same approach as for the preceding projects to alert your troop leaders to select, plan for, and participate in an emergency service project. Other action projects that will help you and your troop sharpen emergency skills might include conducting a simulated, or mock, bicycle or car accident, or setting up an emergency camp from scratch (with sanitation, cooking, and dishwashing facilities for a large number of people). Or you might simulate a building accident or fire, with "victims" role-playing such emergencies as touching a live electrical wire, having their clothes on fire, or experiencing stopped breathing.



### Lost-Child Project

Scouts often are called on to help find people who are lost, and they need to know how to do it. You can help train your troop with a lost-child project.

Usually, Scouts are called together through a troop mobilization plan. The plan is organized with the patrol leader to set it into action. Be sure to announce the equipment needed for the activity, either before or at the time of the mobilization call.

For the project, make one or more "lost child" dummies from burlap sacks stuffed with straw or hay. Put a shirt on the lost child so that searchers will recognize it. Before the mobilization call, place the dummy somewhere in the search territory. Position it in an area that will prove challenging and interesting to searchers. To test the searchers' powers of observation, plant some barely noticeable "evidence" (such as clothing or footprints) of the lost child.

After Scouts have been assembled by the mobilization call, organize them into search parties and use the lost-person search method. Be sure patrols have practiced. Mark the search area on maps that are distributed to the Scouts. Agree on recall signals so the search does not continue after the lost child has been found.

The search will be more dramatic and realistic if your troop can arrange for a rescue squad, military unit, or police department to work with you.

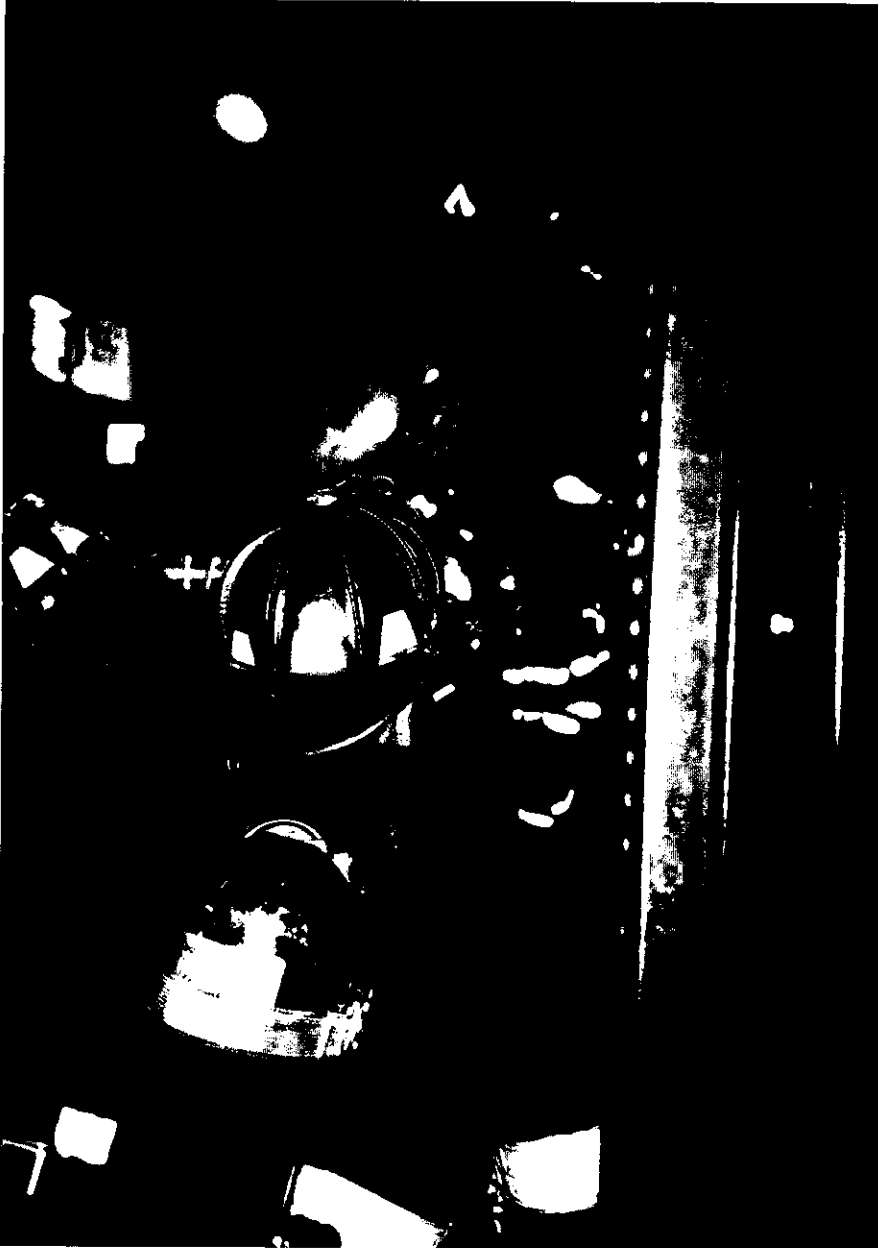
Have Scouts look for the prepared evidence of the lost child. Once found, the lost child should be properly treated for any injuries and transported safely to the starting point.



**The American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization associated with the International Red Cross Movement, which provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prepare for, respond to, recover from, and prevent emergencies. You or your Scoutmaster might contact your local Red Cross chapter to find out how you might get involved in emergency service projects.**

- 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.





If your troop has never set up a mobilization plan, discuss it with your Scoutmaster. Every community needs one. Any emergency plan for community service should be worked out by your Scoutmaster with the director of the local office of emergency management or with a disaster/emergency response coordinator in your area. If your community does not have an emergency management or civil defense office, your Scoutmaster should check with the local American Red Cross chapter or the police or fire department. These officials can advise how your troop can help in an emergency.

### Getting Involved: Emergency Service Projects

To meet the emergency service project requirement for the Emergency Preparedness merit badge, you must take an active role. Merely being at an emergency is not enough. The part you play must be one that you have been trained for (or trained yourself for). You may participate in an emergency service project during a real emergency, but normally you will have to perform a practice drill with your troop or a local community service organization.



You can help your troop plan and conduct an activity that involves an emergency service project. A practice mobilization may be a part of the project but will not qualify as your emergency service project. Your Scoutmaster and troop might consider one of the following activities.

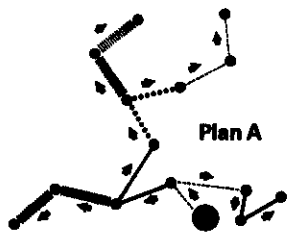
## Emergency Mobilization Plans and Preparation

Is your troop prepared with a mobilization plan if your community asks you to help during an emergency? In any disaster, your first responsibility is to your family and home. But if a tornado has hit a neighboring town, or a nearby community is threatened with a flood or other emergency situation, your troop might be called upon to help.

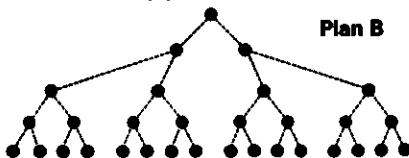
You will be asked to be at a specific place at a specific time. If the telephones are working, use mobilization plan B; if phone lines are down, your troop must use mobilization plan A. Your troop should be prepared to use both plans.

### Mobilization Plans

Use plan A when normal communications systems are unavailable. This plan involves planning and making contacts on the basis of proximity, or nearness. Leaders and Scouts make personal contact with troop members living near them. A Scoutmaster may first learn of the need for the troop's services when a police car or other emergency vehicle drives to the Scoutmaster's home with an authorized and approved request for the troop's services. Under this plan, the Scoutmaster goes to the home of a member in one direction from the Scoutmaster's home, and then to the home of a member in another direction. In a similar manner, each Scout personally contacts two members of the troop. This process continues until all have been notified of the mobilization call and the group is en route to the assembly point.



Use plan B when normal phone communications are available. Troops mobilize by patrols. Members are contacted by phone. To begin the mobilization, the Scoutmaster calls the assistant Scoutmaster and the senior patrol leader. They each phone two patrol leaders. Each patrol leader phones two patrol members. This procedure continues through the entire troop roster. The word is passed from person to person. If a member cannot be reached, contact must be assumed by the caller.



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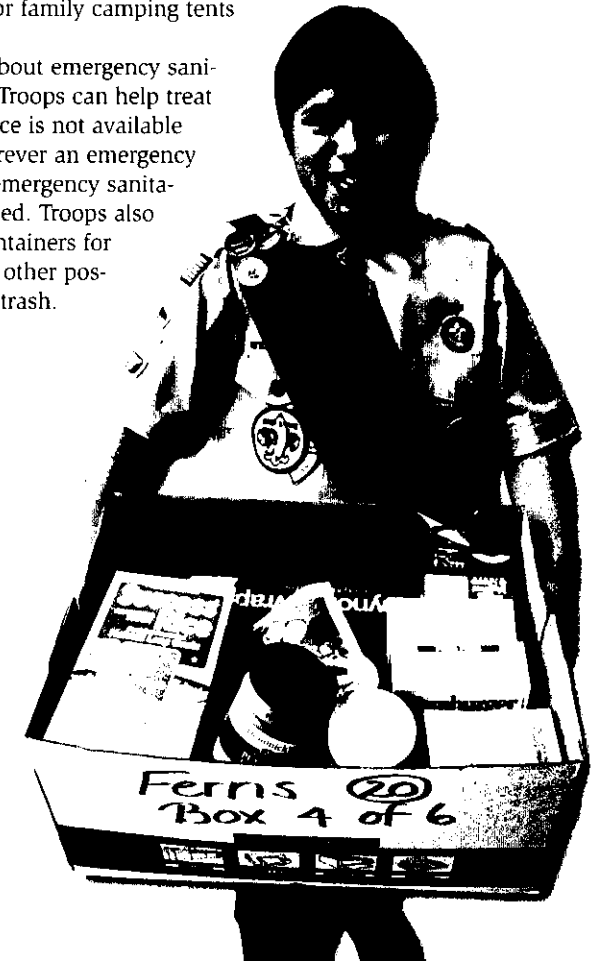


### Mass Feeding, Shelter, and Sanitation

The San Francisco Bay Area Council once recruited Scout troops to help the Red Cross feed 250 people during an emergency. Before the Red Cross could move in its "big" equipment, the Scouts arrived. Within three hours of the first mobilization signal, each Scout patrol had enough water boiling in improvised 5-gallon-can cookpots to make and serve hot soup and coffee.

If your troop is prepared with cooking cans (four per patrol), grates and grills, trench shovels, axes, Scout staves, firestarters, twine or rope (to mark off serving areas), and a fuel supply (such as charcoal), you will be prepared for emergency mass feeding. Always coordinate activities with the Red Cross or local authorities. Under the direction of the officials in charge, Scouts could properly set up tents in designated areas. Troop tents or family camping tents can be used.

Scouts know more about emergency sanitation than most people. Troops can help treat water if clean water service is not available after an emergency. Wherever an emergency shelter has been set up, emergency sanitation often must be provided. Troops also can round up covered containers for garbage or come up with other possibilities for dealing with trash.



### Collection and Distribution Services

During and after some disasters, such as floods and tornadoes, many people may be without food and clothing. People may be homeless for a time. Scout troops working under the direction of their leaders and local officials can help collect needed items and get them to a central distribution point. Usually, officials will set up collection and distribution points at places such as places of worship, fire stations, schools, and other public buildings. Your troop meeting place might be used.

If your troop has developed a master map of your community, you will know where food stores are. This will save time in rounding up supplies. Scouts also can distribute leaflets or instructions for the Red Cross, the local emergency management agency, or other local authorities and volunteer groups.



Many Scouting units already know about and have experience collecting and distributing food through their work in the Scouting for Food National Good Turn.

## Introduction

The Atlantic hurricane season of 2005 produced one of the five deadliest hurricanes in U.S. history. Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005. With peak winds up to 175 mph, the storm caused great devastation along much of the country's Gulf Coast. The loss of life and property was particularly catastrophic in New Orleans, Louisiana, where the city's levee system failed. Floodwaters consumed the area, and nearly 80 percent of the city lay underwater.

The storm's path caused severe damage to the entire Mississippi coast. The damage reached as far as 100 miles from the eye of the storm. Alabama and Florida also suffered flooding, property damage, and loss of lives.

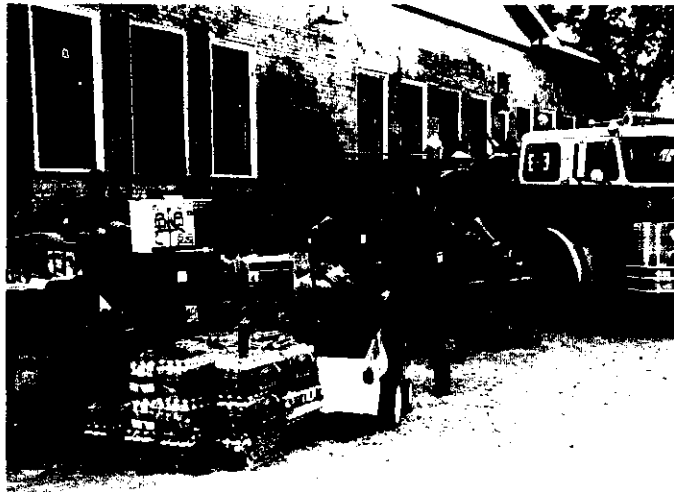


Damage from Hurricane Katrina has been estimated at more than \$80 billion, making it the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. The cost in human lives: 1,836 fatalities.

## Scouts Make a Difference

After the storm passed, widespread problems occurred due to often tardy and inadequate response by federal, state, and local agencies. Storm victims relied greatly on voluntary agencies and their helpers for assistance. In particular, Boy Scout Troop 566 from Warner Robins, Georgia, responded quickly, efficiently, and heroically.\*

Members of Troop 566 visited the Mississippi Gulf Coast seven times to help rebuild damaged homes. They tore down flood-damaged walls in one home, and then helped another homeowner install new insulation. Some Scouts even mowed lawns for homeowners.



**The bottled water Troop 566 delivered was very important because residents were worried about the safety of the municipal water supply after the flooding.**

After their work in D'Iberville, Scouts from Troop 566 traveled to Waveland, Mississippi, to deliver \$5,000 worth of equipment to the town's fire station. Before making their trip to Waveland, the Scouts spent several weeks preparing a plan of

\*This information came from an article by Tom Nankervis, *The Responder*, an online publication of the United Methodist Church.

Scouts might deliver messages within a control center during emergencies, freeing adults for other work. Troops also can help with communications. If telephones are working, Scouts can act as operators, taking incoming calls and relaying information to officials. If phones do not work, signal teams might be set up, with four Scouts to a team. One Scout acts as team chief and observer, another as the signaler, the third as the recorder, and the fourth as the messenger. Messages are sent by Morse code using signal flags, signal lamps, blinkers, or flashlights or by semaphore or hand signaling.

Some Scouts and leaders specialize in radio communications. Some are qualified as amateur radio operators, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) operators for emergency situations, or citizens band (CB) operators. CB units can consult and coordinate with local emergency management organizations such as the Red Cross and can serve as a primary means of communication.



**The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) was founded in 1952 as a public service that provides volunteer communications within government agencies during times of extraordinary need. Each period of RACES activation is different, but the common thread is communications. See the resources section of this pamphlet for more information about RACES.**

Scouts from Troop 566, Warner Robins, Georgia, arrived in the storm-ravaged town of D'Iberville, Mississippi, wearing red shirts and caps emblazoned with the acronym SEMA. The Scouts gave themselves the name SEMA for "Scouting Emergency Management Assistance."

Each member of a crowd-control crew should have access to caution tape. To move a crowd back, crew members can use the caution tape, held at chest height, and advance slowly toward the crowd. To **keep** the crowd back, form a chain with other staff members. To direct the movement of a crowd, indicate direction by pointing or blocking the way.

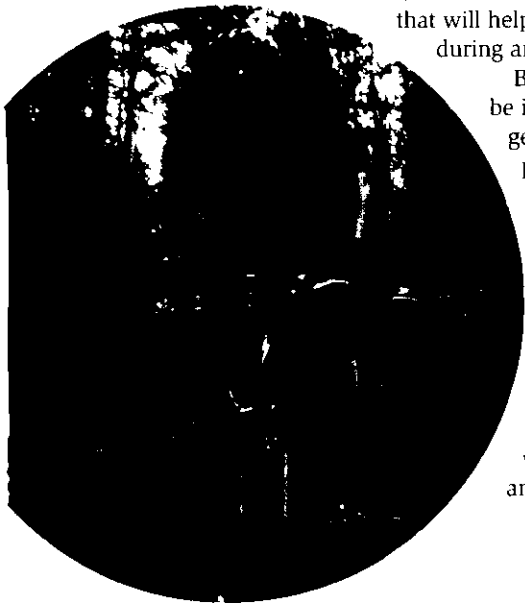
During daylight hours, a fluorescent or reflective vest should be worn. After dark, every member of a crowd-control crew should wear a reflective vest or high-visibility material on the right ankle and arm.

### Messenger Service and Communications

Providing messenger service during an emergency takes planning. Your BSA local council, along with other community organizations, will assign a service area to your troop—usually one that is near your meeting place. Your troop should make a large-scale map of the area and assign sections to each patrol. Each patrol then prepares its own sectional map and learns it inside out. Get to know shortcuts, easiest routes, dead-end streets, traffic blocks, trails, even cow paths—anything that will help you get from one point to another during an emergency.

Bikes can speed up delivery but must be in top condition for a reliable messenger service. Cyclers also must know and practice bicycle safety at all times (see the *Cycling* merit badge pamphlet). In some areas, older Scouts and leaders may deliver messages by car, snowmobile, boat, horse, or skis.

During emergencies, each messenger should carry a flashlight, personal first-aid kit, pencil, paper, map, pocketknife, and money. After delivering a written message, get a written receipt and return it with any answer to the sender.



response. Troop members collected donations from family and friends and loaded up two trailers with much-needed supplies for the storm-damaged area.

The Scouts also provided Waveland residents with tools, furniture, office supplies, and bottled water. Waveland's assistant fire chief called Troop 566's efforts "incredible," but 11-year-old Patrick Nakayama was modest in his response: "We're helping out people, and that's just what Scouts do."

Even though the Scouts from Troop 566 were well-prepared for their trip, many were still shocked by the devastation that greeted them. "When I first came here, it made me cry," said one Scout. "[These residents] just had nothing." Troop member Ben Leon said that the values he learned in Scouting led him to volunteer for the Mississippi relief trip. "You just know you're doing a good thing," he said. "It's just my duty."

### Emergency Preparedness

What is an *emergency*? Usually, it is something unforeseen, unexpected—something that requires immediate action. It can be related to weather, such as a hurricane, a tornado, a snowstorm, or a flood. An emergency can be an accident, such as an explosion, a fire, or a car accident. As a Scout, you should try to learn the actions that can be helpful and needed before an emergency—what *preparedness* is all about—as well as during and after an emergency.





The Scout motto:

Be Prepared.

Nowhere do these words carry more meaning than in emergency preparedness.

And these words, too, from the

Scout Oath: I will do my best . . . to help other people at all times. And

from the Scout Law: A Scout is . . . helpful . . . brave.

Scouts are often called on to help because they know first aid and they know about the discipline and planning needed to support a situation that requires leadership. Scouting gives you the opportunity to understand and respond to your community's emergency preparedness plan. As you earn this merit badge, you will learn how to handle many emergency situations as an individual and as a member of a Scouting unit serving your neighborhood and community. Whether you are needed as an active member of a community response team, or whether you gather the skills and information you need to help protect your family or yourself from injury, everything you learn will help you to be *brave and prepared to help other people at all times.*



**The Federal Emergency Management Agency responds to all types of disasters. Some are weather-related emergencies such as hurricanes, tornados, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and winter storms. Other emergencies may be caused by humans and may or may not be intentional. Such situations include chemical or hazardous material emergencies, dam failures, nuclear power plant emergencies, and acts of terrorism.**

## Community Emergency Service

For as long as there has been Scouting, Scouts have provided outstanding services in emergencies of all kinds. You can learn about emergency preparedness. You can learn to prevent, prepare for, respond to, mitigate or lessen, and recover from emergency situations. But carrying out emergency service work is the best training of all.

As a Scout, you know about living outdoors, camping, cooking, first aid, and how to make a shelter. With knowledge like this, you and your troop can be prepared for emergency service in your community.

### Lending a Helping Hand

There are many important ways that Scouts can lend their assistance after an emergency. Below are four of the major services Scouts have provided the past. All of these skills take planning and practice.

#### Crowd and Traffic Control

Scout troops in the past have helped police and fire departments and emergency management officials handle crowd and traffic control. Today, it is felt that Scouts should do this only at official Boy Scouts of America functions. In any case, crowd and traffic control *must* be done under the supervision of officials in charge of the situation.

