

Module 4 – Host A Neighborhood Build Your Bucket Event

Consider hosting a workshop to help neighbors assemble 5-gallon disaster preparedness buckets for their families. This is a collection of basic items a household may need in the event of an emergency, such as a hurricane.

It's recommended that families have food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantities to last at least 72 hours. Something else to consider is that electric, gas, water, sewer and telephone service may be temporarily cut off. Your preparedness kit should contain items to help you manage during these potential outages.

You may be able to purchase the buckets at a low or reduced price from a home improvement store, or you could consider seeking donations or community sponsors who could contribute to the purchase. You could also do a bring your own bucket event. Whatever approach you choose, make sure the buckets have lids.

Suggested Bucket Supplies List:

- **Batteries** – Be sure to keep these inside in a cool, dry place rather than in the garage.
- **Cash** – It works even if your debit card doesn't.
- **Duct Tape** – This heavy-duty tape will likely come in handy.
- **Dust Mask** – Storms can kick up particles in the air that can harm your lungs.
- **First Aid Kit** – A first aid kit will help you to attend to minor injuries like scrapes or sprains.
- **Flashlight** – The electricity may go out. A flashlight will help you see in the dark and is safer than using candles.
- **Games and Toys** – If you have children, games and toys that don't depend on electricity will help keep them occupied.
- **Hygiene Products** – Staying clean is important, especially if utility services are interrupted. Moist towelettes, hand cleansers, soap, toilet paper, toothbrushes and toothpaste are essential. Also, stock special items like diapers and feminine hygiene products, if needed.
- **Keys for Your Home and Car** – A spare set of keys will ensure you can quickly access your home or vehicle during an emergency.
- **Large Plastic Trash Bags** – Large plastic trash bags have multiple uses. Use as a makeshift poncho. Set your sleeping bag on them to stay dry. You could even put your dirty clothes and food waste in them.
- **Local Map** – If your phone and GPS batteries are low, you may have to find your way using an old-fashioned printed map.
- **Medications** – If you rely on medication, ensure you have it and your doctor's information in your kit.
- **Multipurpose Pocket Knife** – It has so many uses! Cut rope, open canned food and so much more.
- **Non-perishable Food** – Canned food items are the best to have on hand.

- **Pet Supplies** – Remember to pack items your pet may need, like ID tags, food, toys and medication
- **Photos of Family Members and Pets** – If you're separated, having pictures to turn over to authorities may help with reunification.
- **Poncho** – Hurricanes include rain and wind. You want to stay dry.
- **Portable Phone Charger** – In the event of a power outage, this will extend the life of your phone, keeping you connected to loved ones and vital information.
- **Radio with Extra Batteries** – A radio that relies on batteries is a must! The electricity may be out, and you'll need to stay up-to-date on recovery efforts.
- **Rope** – This will help tie down a tarp.
- **Tarp** – Like trash bags, this is a multi-use item. Put it on your roof if it's damaged. Put it under your sleeping bag to stay dry. Collect rain water to flush toilets.
- **Towel** – An all-around good item to have.
- **Water** – You need at least one gallon per person and per pet per day in unbreakable containers for drinking. Stock more for nursing mothers, mixing formula, etc. Include extra containers of water to be used for cooking, flushing toilets and bathing.
- **Waterproof Bag with Family Documents** – A copy of family documents, like your driver's license, social security card and insurance information, in a waterproof bag for safe keeping is a must.
- **Whistle** – A whistle will help get the attention of rescue workers, if they are nearby.

