New Year, New Plan

As you make your New Year’s resolutions list, remember to add testing and or creating your family disaster plan. If you do not have a plan and are not sure where to start, visit our website. We have a complete list of things to consider when creating your plan including information on emergency preparedness kits. If you have a plan, it should be practiced regularly. The New Year is a great opportunity to review and renew.

Make Time to Review

Every New Year brings change. This is a very important time of year to make sure that your family disaster plan is current. Here are some items to check as part of your plan review:

1. **Emergency Contact Information**—Has anyone’s information in your communications plan changed? Do you have a new doctor? Out of State contact? Etc.
2. **Relocation**—Have you moved? Is there a new home escape route diagram?
3. **Development**—Has recent development or road construction affected your chosen evacuation routes into and out of your neighborhood?
4. **Family Meeting Place**—Is there a need to choose a new location for a family meeting place outside of your neighborhood?
5. **Change in family size/needs**—Has this last year brought changes in your family’s size or needs? Does your 72 hour kit have all the appropriate supplies for each member of your family (pets included)?

Know Your Hazards

Every community is at risk from various natural and man-made hazards. Hazards are events that threaten lives, property, assets, and infrastructure. We need to know what hazards we face so that we can take reasonable precautions to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. Knowing your risks can help you develop a Family Disaster Plan to help you and your family prepare for and respond to hazardous events. Visit our website to learn more about the hazards in Ada County.

Document Your Belongings

The New Year is a great time to photo document everything you own, or at least everything you would want to replace. Take photos from more than one angle to document condition. The photos need to be accompanied by written descriptions of the items to include model and serial numbers if available. If you already have a documented list, take time to review and add any new items you have recently purchased.