Every day we see news about severe storms and wildfires. Is your family prepared? How about your business? You need supplies for all the possible people you will have to shelter. Make sure you have enough.

Please share this with your family and business associates.

___ Family / Business Communications Plan
✓ Write down critical cell and landline numbers in case your phone dies
✓ Know where your family members or business colleagues will meet if cell towers and landline phones go out
✓ Designate an out-of-area relative everyone should contact if you can’t reach each other
✓ For your business, complete a contact sheet for all workforce members, including their personal e-mail address, their spouse/partner contact info, and an out-of-area contact you can call if you can’t reach your employee

___ Water - Water systems may be contaminated and unsafe for 3 or more days
✓ Buy cases of water or fill pots and pitchers with drinking water – 1 gallon per day per person
✓ Store 10 gallons of clean water for cooking
✓ Use food-grade water containers from camping stores
✓ Replace the water every six months if not using commercially bottled water
✓ Never use water from toilet flush tanks or bowls, radiators, waterbeds, or swimming pools/spas.
✓ Purchase LifeStraw water purifiers to filter contaminated water

___ Food
✓ Store non-perishable food you don’t have to cook
✓ Include food needed for special diets
✓ Store non-perishable food for your pets

___ Utilities
✓ Know how to turn off your electric, water, and gas services
✓ Keep tools near your shutoffs for quick action
✓ Never turn on your utilities until authorized
✓ Always have a professional turn your gas back on

___ Cash - Credit cards won’t work if power and communications go down.
✓ Withdraw $ 200 - $ 300 in small bills so you can make cash purchases

___ Automobile - gas pumps won’t work if power fails
✓ Fill your gas tank when you first hear a warning
✓ Don’t drain your car battery charging cell phones or other devices
✓ Keep an emergency kit in your car in case you are stranded away from home

___ Cell phones
✓ Register your cell phone to receive calls from your county’s emergency management system
✓ Install weather and disaster preparedness apps and configure for alert notifications
✓ Text messages use less battery and get through when calls can’t
✓ Photograph the contents of your house or business now and every 6 months (or after major changes)
✓ Store emergency contact info for family members and employees, including alternate e-mail contacts and phone numbers for their close friends and relatives in case you can’t reach them directly
✓ Charge and bring all your external batteries to keep your cell phone powered—keep them charged
✓ Pack your car charger and home charger if you evacuate
✓ Extend your battery by turning off wi-fi and other services you aren’t using
✓ Solar chargers will work when power is out for extended periods
✓ Learn how to set up your cell phone as a personal Internet hotspot
**Computers**
✓ Back up critical data onto external hard drives or the cloud
✓ If you have to evacuate take critical equipment with you, or seal it in garbage bags and store it in a high spot to protect against water damage
✓ Pack your laptop charger if you evacuate
✓ For businesses, do a test-restore of your backup files every quarter to ensure that (a) the backups will work during an emergency and (b) all critical data is backed up. Don’t just move files- make sure your business functions will work in the backup environment

**Generators** - can use 7 – 10 gallons of gasoline PER DAY
✓ Use gasoline or propane generators - communities may turn off natural gas service prior to a disaster
✓ Plan your needs to be sure you can power heating, refrigerators, lights, and television for 7 days
✓ Store gasoline in safe containers with fuel stabilizer. Replace stored gas every 6 – 10 months
✓ During disaster turn generator off periodically for maximum use but run it enough to keep food cold
✓ Buy a siphon to ‘borrow’ fuel for your generator from cars and mowers

**Evacuation**
✓ Have a backpack or overnight bag pre-packed with clothes, medications, sweatshirt and sweatpants; energy/meal replacement bars; emergency blankets (look in the camping supply areas of sporting goods or department store); inflatable pillow; sanitation and hygiene items (hand sanitizer, moist towelettes, and toilet paper); photocopies of identification and credit cards; special needs items such as prescription medications, eye glasses, contact lens solution, and hearing aid batteries; items for infants, such as formula, diapers, bottles, and pacifiers.
✓ Follow instructions to shut off water, gas, and electricity before you leave
✓ Know your evacuation routes before you go. Print out directions from your county emergency mgt. website

**Hand-crank weather radio**
✓ Purchase one at Amazon Lowes, Home Depot, Sam’s, Costco, or Walmart
✓ Make sure the radio has SAME alerting so you will only receive alerts for your local area.
✓ These also charge cell phones through a USB cable

**Batteries**
✓ Enough for flashlights, lanterns, radios for 1 week

**Flashlights/LED lanterns**
✓ No need for fuel or mantles; safer than candles
✓ Some lanterns come with removable LED flashlights

**Common Sense**
✓ Evacuate if your local government issues an order
✓ Don’t drive through flooded streets
✓ Stay away from downed wires

**Don’t panic**
✓ Practice your disaster response so everyone knows what to expect
✓ Keep your cool for your own safety and your family’s

Mike Semel is a Certified Business Continuity Professional. Semel Consulting has helped hundreds of businesses create effective Business Continuity plans that have helped them survive SuperStorm Sandy, the Joplin tornado, and many small disasters and business interruptions you never heard of. For help creating your plan, or if you have questions about disaster preparedness for your family or business, visit [www.semelconsulting.com](http://www.semelconsulting.com).
AMAZON DISASTER ORDER LIST
These are all Prime-Eligible for quick delivery. Click on the picture to order.

Batteries – AAA, AA, C-cell, D-cell (for lanterns and radios)

Click on the size you need - AAA  AA  C-cell  D-cell  9 volt  2032 lithium

Lantern

Solar charger
AMAZON DISASTER ORDER LIST
These are all Prime-Eligible for quick delivery. Click on the picture to order.

External cell phone battery

Jackery External Battery Charger Gaint = 12600mAh Dual USB Portable Battery Charger/External Battery Pack/Phone Backup Power Bank with Emergency Flashlight for iPhone, Samsung and Others - Orange

Product Features:
- Emergency keep a charge handy in an emergency, using in grid...

Radio – weather channel, hand-crank, solar charger, flashlight

Emergency Weather Solar Crank AM/FM NOAA Radio with Portable 2000mAh Power Bank, Bright Flashlight and Reading Lamp for Household Emergency and Outdoor Survival (Green)

In Stock.

Price: $31.90

Color: Green

- Storm Ahead, Stay Safe: Be ready for storms during tornadoes, hurricanes, AM/FM/Weather radio channels keep you clued in and ready to face any weather challenges
- Power Bank: The built-in rechargeable Li-ion battery radio can be charged with your USB cable, 3 AAA batteries (not included), hand cranking and the solar panel, supplies 10-12 hours of radio time, or up to 15 hours of flashlight time when fully charged
- Power Your Phone: 2000mAh power bank can be used to charge a cell phone or other USB devices, therefore, you will be able to make your emergency cell phone in the most desperate situations

100-hour candle – make sure you have matches

Sterno S04x2 Liquid-Emergency Candles, 15.6 oz (Pack of 4)

In Stock.

$10.04

- Liquid evaporation ensures a 100-hour burn time
- Burn time can be extended with additional liquid

Water Jug

Gowithwind 1.25 Gallon / 2.5 Gallon / 5 Gallon Collapsible Water Container, BPA Free FDA Approved Water Storage Container, Portable Water Carrier Bag for Hiking Camping and Hurricane Flood Earthquake

In Stock.

$10.04

- Collapsible water container is lightweight for easy transport
- Made from FDA approved materials, BPA-free
- Perfect for hiking, camping, and emergency preparedness
AMAZON DISASTER ORDER LIST
These are all Prime-Eligible for quick delivery. Click on the picture to order.

LifeStraw – for when the water supply isn’t safe to drink

Water Purification Tablets – for when the water supply isn’t safe to drink

Emergency Sleeping Bag

Emergency 2-person 3-day kit

Emergency Food – 18 400-calorie bars – during a disaster you need strength – eat calories!
AMAZON DISASTER ORDER LIST
These are all Prime-Eligible for quick delivery. Click on the picture to order.

Emergency Food – 30 days – good for businesses; preparation for sheltering-in-place

Toilet Paper – you won’t laugh when you are the only one in the shelter who thought ahead!

Gas Cans – Generators use 7 gallons per day if run continuously. Most people have less than 5 gallons for their mower.