



Circle D Civic Association

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Howdy Neighbors!

Most of the time when we hear about a large-scale natural disaster, it doesn't affect us. It happens to the "other guy".

In just a few days, Monday September 4th, (to be exact) will be the 12-year anniversary of when a disaster did impact us! On Sunday September 4, 2011, the Bastrop Complex Fire ignited. The raging inferno burned over 32,000 acres, destroyed over 1600 homes, and killed two people. The fire burned for 55 days. I can tell you from my personal experience, the area looked like the front door to Hell! This wildfire holds the record as the largest destructive wildfire in state history!

What were some of the contributing key factors? Exceptional drought, record high temperatures, and unusually high winds. Another contributing factor was the lackadaisical attitude of some companies AND property owners towards taking a proactive "fire defensive" approach when managing their property. Any of this sound familiar today?

Being prepared to respond and evacuate during a natural disaster is a reality all of us should face. Attached is a Disaster Preparedness Checklist developed for your use. The checklist is simply a tool you can use to collect vital information you may need in case of an emergency. The checklist also has some great information on resources that may be available to you during/after a disaster.

The first step is to read the checklist. Once you have a good idea of what the checklist is all about, collect the required information and fill in the blanks. After completing the checklist, make a copy. You should send a copy (in a sealed envelope) to a trusted family member (not in the same area), or perhaps to your accountant or attorney. You should put the original copy in your "in case of emergency/evacuate bag". It's just that easy!

I thought this checklist might help you be more prepared when the time comes. The more you prepare today, the easier and faster you can recover when disaster strikes.

Thanks for your time. Talk to you soon.

Jim Stephens
CDCA President

Circle D Civic Association

Disaster Preparedness

Checklist

In the development of catastrophic event such as a fire, tornado, or flood emergency you may not have much time to act.

Learn how to protect yourself and cope with disaster by planning ahead. This checklist will help you get started.

This Preparedness Checklist is brought to you
by the
CDCA Board Of Directors - 2023

Be Prepared: Protect Your Personal Finances

If you had to leave your home in an emergency, you would have only minutes to choose what stays and what goes, and your financial records may be one of the last things on your mind.

Collecting, copying, and storing your financial information now could help you avoid problems and recover faster after a disaster. This checklist can help. Use it to make sure you have the information and documents you need. Then, keep it with your important documents so you can refer to them when needed.

Account Numbers

Use the sample table on the right, or a separate piece of paper, to organize your account and customer service numbers.

Personal records

Make and store copies of:

- Driver's licenses
- Passports
- Social Security cards
- Birth certificates
- Marriage and divorce papers
- Home titles or deeds
- Car, boat, or RV registrations and titles
- A room-by-room picture or video inventory of your belongings

Inventory Your Belongings

A written inventory of your belongings, backed up by a video of each room in your home and all outbuildings, can help prove what you lost and what was damaged.

Financial Records

Most financial records can be replaced, but you need your insurance information if your property is damaged, or if you or a family member needs medical care. Keeping records safe also helps you avoid trouble if questions arise later about your investments, taxes, or workplace benefits.

Make and store copies of:

- Insurance policies
- Investment records
- Income tax information
- Pay stubs and employer benefits records
- Wills, living wills, trusts, financial and medical powers of attorney

Computer files

If you keep financial records, passwords, family photos, and videos on your computer, consider backing the information up to a secure cloud storage service, or backing up your data regularly and keeping the backups somewhere safe.

Keep Important Documents and Always Make Copies

Be sure to secure and copy your important papers. Keep the originals in a water-tight container, fire safe, or a bank safe deposit box. If you keep your documents at home, be sure you can grab them in a hurry and go.

Store your copies somewhere else - in a secure place at work, with a trusted relative /friend, or if you have access to a computer, scan your documents and then put them on a flash drive or store the information at a secure online storage website.

Loans & Credit Card	Account Number	Customer Service Number
Mortgage		
Home Equity Loan		
Car Loan		
Credit Card		
Student Loan		
Other		

Home and Utilities	Account Number	Customer Service Number
Rent		
Cable or Satellite		
Electric		
Water		
Phone		
Other		

Insurance and other Accounts	Account Number	Customer Service Number
Insurance - Homeowner/Renters		
Auto Insurance		
Medical Insurance		
Checking Account		
Savings Account		
Other		

After A Disaster

If a disaster strikes your home, as soon as possible, contact your credit card company, mortgage company, and other creditors to advise them of your situation. Most have ways to help. If you can't live in your home, check with your utility companies (electric, water, gas) to see if you can shut off the service to add extra money to your budget.

Many people and groups will offer help. Disaster chasing criminals may also show up and try to scam you.

Watch out for:

- Up-front fees to help you claim services, benefits, or get a loan. Government employees never charge to help you get a benefit or service.
- Contractors selling repairs door-to door, especially if they offer deep discounts or ask you to pay them up front.
- Insurance agents who try and sell you after-the-fact policies.
- Organizations with name of similar other reputable agencies or charities

Important Phone Numbers - Bastrop County

In the event of an emergency, dial 911

Fire: Emergency Services District #2
(844) 347-3373

Office of Emergency Management
(512) 581-4022

Aqua Water Supply Corporation
(512) 303-3943

Bluebonnet Electric
(800) 842-7708

American Red Cross
<https://www.redcross.org/get-help.html>

Salvation Army - Administrative Offices
4700 Manor Road
Austin, TX 78723
512-782-8800

Emergency Shelter: Locate options by zip code by visiting the American Red Cross, or Salvation Army, or by texting SHELTER and your zip code (for example, "SHELTER 01234") to 4FEMA (43362). For Spanish text REFUGIO and your zip code. (Standard text message rates apply.) You can also download the FEMA Mobile App to find open shelters.

Immediate Needs: Check with your local emergency management officials, volunteer agencies or call your local 2-1-1. The FEMA Helpline (800-621-3362) may be able to provide additional referrals. If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service. They also offer support for individuals with disabilities, or access and functional needs.

Register for FEMA help:

1. Online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.
2. Call 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET, 7 days a week at 1-800-621-3362 (also for 711 & VRS). People with speech or hearing impairment may call toll free TTY 1-800-462-7585. For those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362.

You may get updates on disasters in real time using:

- Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management Facebook Page
- Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management Instagram Page
- <https://www.kxan.com/news/local/bastrop/home-evacuations-underway-due-to-bastrop-wildfire/>
- Next Door App (Updates are posted by individual people using the App)
- 5-0 Radio Police Scanner App - (Information supplied by Next Door App)