As a continuing effort to promote preparedness, Lewis County Emergency Management will be providing Monthly Safety Messages that will focus on all-hazard, can-do preparedness for individuals and neighborhoods.

A disaster, by definition, is any event that overwhelms a person or agency’s ability to respond. Disasters typically happen with little or no warning, and can leave us cut off from outside support for 3-7 days, or longer in widespread events. An emergency is a sudden, usually unexpected event that does or could do harm to people, resources, property, or the environment.

While there are no guarantees, individuals who are prepared typically experience a reduction in loss, injury, damage, and trauma. Neighborhoods that are prepared and ready to complete initial response activity also help minimize the tasks of the emergency responders.

The key to successful preparedness is to take one hour a month to complete one preparedness task. Begin or continue your family preparedness by completing the following preparedness assignment.

**Make a Vehicle Emergency Kit**

If inclement weather is present in your area and if you must drive, make sure your vehicle is operating safely. Stay tuned to your radio for updates on weather conditions. Make sure you have prepared and stored a Vehicle Emergency Kit in your car trunk:

**Some items for consideration include:**

- Flares
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Duct tape
- Tire inflation can
- Emergency poncho or rain coat
- Clean towel
- Roll of toilet paper
- Container of handy wipes
- Maps
- Small plastic tarp
- Small fire extinguisher
- Small tool kit with a knife
- Bottled water & high energy food, non-perishable
- Booster cables
- Emergency blanket
- First Aid kit and manual
- Light weight nylon cord/rope
- Cat litter (for tire traction) in a coffee can
- Folding campers saw & folding shovel
- Pair of work gloves
- Wool blankets or sleeping bags

**Mission Statement:**

Lewis County Emergency Management shall seek to minimize the impacts of disasters and emergencies on the people, property, and environment of Lewis County through strong partnerships that promote mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts.