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 Pet Disaster Kit**

Advanced planning could save your pet’s life. Have a portable pet disaster supply kit. Make sure your pet is familiar with the portable kennel or carrier you plan to use. Remember that pets become anxious and stressed just as humans do in emergencies:

**Some items for consideration include:**

- Collar or harness with ID tags and license attached
- Food and water with a bowl and can opener
- TAG = your veterinarian’s name and phone #
- A recent picture of you and your pet placed inside the pet carrier in a zip-lock bag
- Portable kennel large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down comfortably
- Leash
- A favorite pet toy
- TAG = contact name, phone #, and address outside the area in case you are separated from your pet
- Litter for cats
- Animal first aid kit stored in zip-lock bags
- Medications and medical (shot) records Assorted zip-lock bags
- Small plastic bags for collection of pet waste
- TAG = Pets name and owners name, phone #, and address
- Hand towel
- Other items you consider essential

**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.