

APRIL IS PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH IN SCOTT COUNTY



National Public Health Week • April 2-8, 2007

Join the American Public Health Association, the Scott County Health Department, and other organizations in celebrating National Public Health Week during the week of April 2-8, 2007. This year's theme is, "Preparedness and Public Health Threats: Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation's Vulnerable Populations." Many Americans are not prepared for public health threats. The aim of this week is to explore ways to connect people with resources to help them prepare for health emergencies. For more information about National Public Health Week, visit www.nphw.org.

New Public Health Preparedness Resources Just For Kids



The Scott County Health Department maintains a Public Health Preparedness link on our website, www.scottcountyiowa.com/health, which contains updated resources in preparation for public health emergencies. There are checklists available for download to ensure that families, schools, churches, businesses, and organizations are all prepared for disastrous events, as well as links to local and national resources. Also new to the site is a section just for kids so that they too can learn how to prepare themselves for public health emergencies. This section of the website provides interactive information and activities that teach children how to prepare for a disaster and includes a quiz that if completed correctly will generate a certificate.

Join the Local Community Emergency Response Team!

You are invited to join the local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Members of the CERT team will be trained by emergency personnel in basic response skills. CERT members will then be able to apply their skills in the event that a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional response. The training takes about 20 hours to complete and includes information on disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, and terrorism. Members of the CERT team may be asked to participate in exercises to improve and maintain the skills they have learned. For more information, contact the Quad Cities Area Citizen Corps at 309-736-5680 or visit www.moline.il.us or call United Neighbors at 563-322-7363 or visit www.unitedneighbors.com.



If you would like to receive this newsletter and other Scott County Health Department press releases electronically, please add your name to our e-mail list on our website at: www.scottcountyiowa.com/health.

Take the First Step!

Are you and your family prepared for a public health emergency? Were you prepared for the recent snow and ice storm? Would you know how to respond in the event of a natural disaster such as a flood or tornado; or a biological or chemical threat, or even a disease outbreak, such as pandemic influenza? Do you have extra bottles of water or canned foods stored away in case of a crisis? If not, it is time to start planning today!

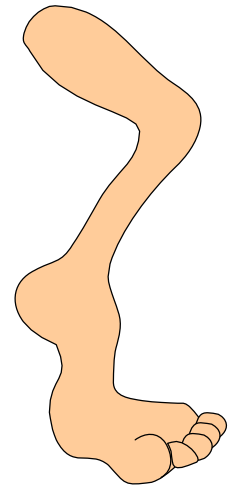
1. Create a Kit

There may not be time to search for supplies during or after an emergency and stores may not be open to buy the supplies you need. The kit should include the following supplies according to the Iowa Department of Public Health and all family members should know where the kit is stored.

- Water—at least one gallon per person per day for at least 3 days, stored in a plastic container
- Food—at least a 3-day supply of nonperishable food
- First-aid kit
- Prescription medications
- Battery-powered radio
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- Can opener
- Bedding for each person
- Personal hygiene items
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt for each person to help filter the air
- A whistle to signal for help
- Waterproof container to store important document

2. Make a Plan

Many times family members may not be at the same location when an emergency occurs. Children may be at school and adults may be at work or at other locations. It is important to designate a place to meet as well as a backup location. Also, a person should be designated as an emergency contact. This person should not live in the same neighborhood. Pets are important, too. Have a place or person in a different neighborhood identified to take care of your pet in the event that you cannot care for him/her.



3. Know the Facts

Learn as much as you can about different types of emergencies so that you will have an idea of what to expect in the event it does occur. Know how to respond to a fire, flood, or a tornado. It may be helpful to have a fire or a tornado drill in your home to practice your plan.

Funds Available to Scott County Residents for Water Well Services

The Scott County Health Department receives money from the Grants to Counties program to help residents pay for the cost of well abandonment, rehabilitation, and water sampling. This program is funded by the Iowa Department of Public Health. For more information on water well services or to request a service, please call the Scott County Health Department at 563/326-8618 or submit the online Water Well Services Request Form which can be found at: http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/water_welltesting.php.

