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Questions & Sample Answers / ECHO-TV Show # 303-304

“Government and You in Emergencies”

(Recording Show: Tuesday, February 27th, 2007 / 3:00-8:00 pm-TPT - TV)

1. Why is this show important to talk about in our community?

Sample Answer:

- People don't prepare for emergencies because they think they're too busy or doubt a “disaster” will ever happen but emergencies *DO HAPPEN* and by preparing now, you can help yourself and others when emergencies happen.
- In an emergency, everyone has a role in how to respond and by knowing what you can do, what government can do and what duties other agencies perform in an emergency so there is a united effort not a confused effort in who does what to respond to a crisis situation.
- Knowing where to go for help is another way individuals, communities and government officials can work together to during emergencies.
- New Americans may not be familiar with tornado sirens, evacuation plans or 9-1-1 services so talking about how to prepare your self, your family and your community – everyone is healthier and safer!

2. What kinds of emergencies should we prepare for?

Sample Answer:

- Individual and family emergencies are:
 - A fire or carbon monoxide poisoning in the home
 - Being stranded in a snow storm
 - Chemical spill on the highway from a major traffic accident
- Examples of natural disasters are:
 - Tornadoes, snow storms and floods are common in Minnesota;

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- Mud slides, Tsunami’s and earthquakes are more likely to happen outside the Midwest;

- Examples of man-made or intentionally planned disasters are:
 - Bombings like the World Trade Center or the subway attack in London
 - Terrorist attacks like the 9-11 or the intentional use of anthrax to make people sick

3. Why should we prepare for emergencies?

Sample Answer:

- Emergencies happen when we least expect it so planning for them and practicing how to handle them helps us know how to respond and from emergencies.

- Local, state and the federal government prepares and practices emergency plans that can save lives during major disasters.

- In an emergency there is only time to react so being aware of what to do and who to call for help can help you and others around you deal with crisis.

4. How should individuals and families prepare for emergencies?

Sample Answer:

- There are three ways to prepare your family for disasters: 1) Make a Plan, 2) Make a Kit and 3) Get Involved:

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○ Make a plan means:

- Talk to your family and plan how to get out of the house if there is a fire or where to meet if you are separated during a storm.
- Create a communication plan with important phone numbers for police, fire, public health and family members who can help when there's an emergency.
- Having a list of medications and medical resources available is helpful if you must stay away from home.

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Question #4 Continued.....

- Make a Kit means make a **survival** kit in case you have to stay in your home for several days. This is also called Shelter-In-Place.
 - A survival kit has first aid supplies, clothing for each family member, and a battery operated radio.
 - Some kits have water and dried foods that can be stored for six months at a time.
 - If you have pets you might pack some dog and cat food
- Get involved in your community means practice for emergencies by participating in emergency response planning.
 - You can volunteer with the Red Cross other agencies and participate in helping others when they need help after a fire or flood takes away their home or business.
 - Take time to learn what schools, businesses and government is doing in your community to prepare for large scale emergencies that may affect an entire community.

5. What does government do to prepare for emergencies?

Sample Answer:

- Because police officers, fire fighters, emergency managers and public health professionals each play a different role when responding to a crisis.

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- City, county and state agencies update emergency plans to be sure police, fire, public health and other government agencies know how to work together when responding to emergencies.

- Government agencies practice emergency plans so they learn how to react and work together to different types of emergencies such as a tornado affecting one community or a pandemic flu affecting many communities.

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6. What do non-profit or other supportive agencies do to prepare for emergencies?

Sample Answer:

- Agencies like the Red Cross or Salvation Army respond to emergencies by providing food, clothing and temporary shelter.
- Volunteer organizations provide skilled or training volunteer to support recovery or clean up efforts after a tornado or other disaster.
- Emergency preparedness plans include non-profit agencies and volunteers in their planning and practice so each agency knows where they fit in when responding to a crisis.

7. HOST SAYS TO GUEST AND AUDIENCE: “Well I’d like to tell you and our audience, what ECHO will do when there is a large scale emergency?”

Sample Answer:

- ECHO means “Emergency and Community Health Outreach” and my role as ECHO host is to inform others about a health or safety crisis so they can in turn, take care of themselves, their families and others in our community.
- ECHO will provide help to local and state government or other agencies by translating and communicating the information they give us.
- ECHO translates emergency information and delivers the information:
 - On public television stations

ECHO TV 303-304 (Your Role Governments Role in Emergencies – Sponsored by ECHO Emerg. Preps grants)
February 2007 by ECHO (Emergency and Community Health Outreach)

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- On our web site
- On our toll free phone line in Minnesota

- ECHO will also deliver information to community partners so they can relay health and safety messages to limited English proficiency speakers in person if necessary. (Hmong American Partnership, West Side Clinic, etc.)

8. If a disaster strikes, what should I do and how will I know what others are doing to help me and my community?

Sample Answer:

- If disaster strikes around you, check for injuries and try to help.
- During an emergency, you should pay very close attention to the news by listening to radio, watching TV or the web site so you know what is happening and what to do.
- If the power is out, a battery operated radio will help keep you informed so make this radio a part of your emergency kit.
- If you are asked to evacuate your home do so immediately. Don't worry about your belonging – it's more important to stay healthy or safe and out of harms way.

9. Is there anything else our expert guest might like to add?

(Optional question only if time permits)

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Sample Answer:

- If a big emergency happens, you and your family may be very afraid. That’s normal. Even people who have always lived here will be afraid.
- The important thing is to know what you should do – and what you should avoid doing – to protect yourself and your family. And don’t let your fear keep you from doing the right thing.

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