

Heber City News

SEPTEMBER 2015

PREPARING YOUR FAMILY AND HOME FOR IMPENDING DISASTERS

Submitted by Mayor Alan McDonald

The month of September is national emergency preparedness month and it is time for all of us to go through our check list regarding what we need to do in the event of disaster. Preparing for disaster is not a one-time event. We must continually prepare ourselves. While no one knows exactly when a devastating earthquake will hit or when a freak tornado will touch down in a community or even our own home, deadly mayhem can strike at any time with a house fire, flooding, or a gas leak.

We all have been taught over and over to build up a long term supply of food and water, prepare 72 hour kits, save money, and prepare an emergency plan. While many have done their work to prepare, others still need to take the time to ready themselves and their family for eventual disaster.

There are many ways individuals and families can prepare for the inevitable and here are just a few of them:

You should prepare a portable kit for each member of your family. Consider preparing one for your places of work as well as one for children to keep at school and one for the car. Here are just a few of the top items in every emergency kit:

1. Water - One gallon of water per person per day. Keep at least a 3 day supply
2. Food - non-perishable food that could include ready-to-eat meats, juices, power bars
3. First aid supplies - an assortment of bandages, ointments, gauze, tweezers, scissors
4. Cash - enough for immediate needs
5. Flashlight, and extra batteries, or hand crank, or light sticks
6. Blanket, / pillow / sleeping bag

7. Dust masks, N95 mask recommended for preventing inhalation or airborne particles
8. Tools – wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, shovel, hammer and working gloves.
9. Personal items – one change of clothing, shoes, outerwear

There are many silent killers in our homes; carbon monoxide and natural gas can be very deadly. Here are some tips to make your home safe from these toxic fumes. Have your appliances inspected every year. Secure your water heater down to prevent it from tipping over in an earthquake. Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home. Keep boxes, paints, chemicals and other flammable substances away from gas appliances. Know the unique “rotten egg” smell of gas. If there is a gas leak in your home or neighborhood, you may notice a smell like rotten eggs or a skunk. Natural gas is odorless, so gas companies mix in a chemical that gives it a distinctive, unpleasant smell like rotten eggs.

As the Mayor of Heber City I strongly encourage everyone to have at least one member of your family go through the CERT training program (Community Emergency Response Team). The Citizen Corps program was created to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteering service to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues and disasters of all kinds. CERT training is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family and your neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Because emergency services personnel will not be able to help everyone immediately, you can make a difference by using the training from CERT's to save your own life, family member's lives, and to protect your property.

I hope that neither you personally, nor our City will never ever have to go through the experience of a disaster. However, in case it does happen, it's important to make sure that we are all prepared. This will enable us to better survive the aftermath of such an event. The time to better survive the aftermath of such an event. The time to prepare is now.



C.E.R.T. TRAINING FALL 2015



The Community Emergency Response team (CERT) program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and train them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.

Using the training learned in the classroom and during CERT exercises, members can assist their community or workplace following an emergency event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

Classroom instruction will be held on Wednesday nights, August 26; September 2, 16, 23, 30; and October 7, 14 and 21. A mock disaster is scheduled for Saturday, October 24 at Mt. Timpanogos Park, located at US 189 in Provo Canyon. Wasatch County class location to be determined. For more information, email whjelm@gmail.com, or call or text 435-503-1046.

NEW CITY CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The City has a new Code Enforcement Officer, Xela Thomas. For inquiries or complaints concerning nuisances, junk, landscaping, yard maintenance, parking, etc., please call 435-654-3040.

UDOT CHANGES TO ENHANCE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ON MAIN STREET

On Thursday, August 20, 2015 during the Heber City Council Meeting, UDOT unveiled an exciting new plan to make Main Street safer. They plan on installing a Hawk Traffic System. This is a high intensity traffic

system, that when activated by a pedestrian will light up an overhead yellow blinking signal light, informing both directions of travel that a pedestrian is preparing to cross. The signal will then turn to a solid red light stopping both directions of travel allowing the pedestrian to cross safely.



The Hawk Traffic System will be installed at 250 S Main Street. UDOT will then remove the cross walks at 200 South and 300 South forcing all pedestrians to use the Hawk Traffic System. They will also put up No Parking signs in this block to avoid any possible visibility issues that might occur due to vehicles parked on either side of the Hawk Traffic System.

Next, UDOT will install a "Your Speed" sign north of the 500 N Main Street stop light and south of the 1200 S Main Street stop light. This will hopefully slow down any traffic coming into Heber on Main Street.

At 100 North Main, UDOT will be installing flashing lights that would be activated by pedestrians crossing at this intersection.

UDOT expects this project to be finished before winter. As construction begins we will have more detailed information about the use of our new traffic devices.

CROSSING GUARD SAFETY

Submitted by Seargeant Salvador "Chava" Segura



Adult school crossing guards play an important role in the lives of our children who walk or bicycle to school. They help children safely cross the street at key locations, like 500 N. Main Street. This

intersection is one of the busiest intersections in the City. They also remind drivers of the, "PRESENCE OF PEDESTRIANS". The presence of adult crossing guards assists parents in feeling comfortable allowing their children to walk or bike to school. While the primary role of an adult school crossing guard is to guide children safely across the street, they're also observing drivers that aren't paying attention. It's extremely important to obey the crossing guards in order to assure nobody is involved in an accident. Always remember that crossing guards are role models in our community and are there to help our children develop the skills necessary to cross streets safely at all times. **PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND TAKE THE TIME TO WAVE AT OUR CROSSING GUARDS.**