

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



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*"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"*



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# Note to the Counselor

The Boy Scouts of America believes that its youth members need adult contacts to help them develop character, citizenship, and fitness. As a merit badge counselor, you have subscribed to these aims of Scouting.

The *Guide to Safe Scouting*, No. 34416, is updated every year and is available from your local council Scout shop. It is also accessible online at the official BSA website: [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety). As an Emergency Preparedness merit badge counselor, this booklet may be particularly helpful to you.

Some BSA local councils have both risk management and health and safety committees; or these committees may be combined. In the BSA, risk management is an administrative function (prevention, funding); health and safety is a program function (assuring implementation of safe programs). These committees may be helpful as you plan Scouting activities in your area.

The protection of our youth members is as vital as development of their career and hobby interests, which is the merit badge program's basic function. Your active participation in and support of this goal is appreciated.

# Requirements

1. Earn the First Aid merit badge.
2. Do the following:
  - a. Discuss with your counselor the aspects of emergency preparedness:
    - (1) Prevention
    - (2) Protection
    - (3) Mitigation
    - (4) Response
    - (5) Recovery

Include in your discussion the kinds of questions that are important to ask yourself as you consider each of these.



b. Using a chart, graph, spreadsheet, or another method approved by your counselor, demonstrate your understanding of each aspect of emergency preparedness listed in requirement 2a (prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery) for 10 emergency situations from the list below. **You must use the first five situations listed below in boldface**, plus any other five of your choice. Discuss your findings with your counselor.

- (1) **Home kitchen fire**
- (2) **Home basement/storage room/garage fire**
- (3) **Explosion in the home**
- (4) **Automobile crash**
- (5) **Food-borne disease (food poisoning)**
- (6) Fire or explosion in a public place
- (7) Vehicle stalled in the desert
- (8) Vehicle trapped in a blizzard
- (9) Earthquake or tsunami
- (10) Mountain/backcountry accident
- (11) Boating or water accident
- (12) Gas leak in a home or a building
- (13) Tornado or hurricane
- (14) Major flooding or a flash flood
- (15) Toxic chemical spills and releases
- (16) Nuclear power plant emergency
- (17) Avalanche (snowslide or rockslide)
- (18) Violence in a public place



- c. Meet with and teach your family how to get or build a kit, make a plan, and be informed for the situations on the chart you created for requirement 2b. Complete a family plan. Then meet with your counselor and report on your family meeting, discuss their responses, and share your family plan.
3. Show how you could safely save a person from the following:
  - a. Touching a live household electric wire
  - b. A structure filled with carbon monoxide
  - c. Clothes on fire
  - d. Drowning, using nonswimming rescues (including accidents on ice)
4. Show three ways of attracting and communicating with rescue planes/aircraft.
5. With another person, show a good way to transport an injured person out of a remote and/or rugged area, conserving the energy of rescuers while ensuring the well-being and protection of the injured person.

6. Do the following:
  - a. Describe the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS).
  - b. Identify the local government or community agencies that normally handle and prepare for emergency services similar to those of the NIMS or ICS. Explain to your counselor ONE of the following:
    - (1) How the NIMS/ICS can assist a Boy Scout troop when responding in a disaster
    - (2) How a group of Scouts could volunteer to help in the event of these types of emergencies
  - c. Find out who is your community's emergency management director and learn what this person does to **prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to, and recover from** emergency situations in your community. Discuss this information with your counselor, utilizing the information you learned from requirement 2b.
7. Do the following:
  - a. Take part in an emergency service project, either a real one or a practice drill, with a Scouting unit or a community agency.
  - b. Prepare a written plan for mobilizing your troop when needed to do emergency service. If there is already a plan, explain it. Tell your part in making it work.
8. Do the following:
  - a. Tell the things a group of Scouts should be prepared to do, the training they need, and the safety precautions they should take for the following emergency services.
    - (1) Crowd and traffic control
    - (2) Messenger service and communication
    - (3) Collection and distribution services
    - (4) Group feeding, shelter, and sanitation

- b. Prepare a personal emergency service pack for a mobilization call. Prepare a family emergency kit (suitcase or waterproof box) for use by your family in case an emergency evacuation is needed. Explain the needs and uses of the contents.
9. Do ONE of the following:
- a. Using a safety checklist approved by your counselor, inspect your home for potential hazards. Explain the hazards you find and how they can be corrected.
  - b. Review or develop a plan of escape for your family in case of fire in your home.
  - c. Develop an accident prevention program for five family activities outside the home (such as taking a picnic or seeing a movie) that includes an analysis of possible hazards, a proposed plan to correct those hazards, and the reasons for the corrections you propose.





# Emergency Preparedness Resources

## Scouting Literature

*Boy Scout Journal; Backpacking, Camping, Canoeing, Cooking, Cycling, Electricity, Fire Safety, First Aid, Hiking, Home Repairs, Lifesaving, Motorboating, Nature, Orienteering, Pioneering, Public Health, Radio, Rowing, Safety, Search and Rescue, Signs, Signals, and Codes, Small-Boat Sailing, Snow Sports, Swimming, Traffic Safety, Weather, and Wilderness Survival* merit badge pamphlets

With your parent's permission, visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website, [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org), for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

———. *Responding to Emergencies* (participant's manual), 4th ed. Staywell, 2007.

Forgey, William W. *Basic Essentials: Wilderness First Aid*, 3rd ed. Falcon Guides, 2007.

Kelly, Kate. *Living Safe in an Unsafe World: The Complete Guide to Family Preparedness*. New American Library Trade, 2000.

Meyer-Crissey, Pamela, and Brian L. Crissey, Ph.D. *Common Sense in Uncommon Times*, 2nd ed. Granite Publishing, 2013.

U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. *First There First Care: Bystander Care for the Injured*. DOT HS 809 853, 2005.

## Books

American Red Cross. *American Red Cross Water Safety Handbook*, 3rd ed. StayWell, 2009.

———. *First Aid/CPR/AED for Schools and the Community* (participant's manual), 3rd ed. Staywell, 2006.

The following emergency preparedness resources from the American Red Cross may be of particular interest to Scouts, Scout leaders, and merit badge counselors.

**Masters of Disaster™  
Educator's Kit,**  
No. A1140EDU.

**Masters of Disaster™  
Family Kit,**  
No. A1140FAM.



**Organizations and Websites**

**American Red Cross**

Toll-free telephone: 800-733-2767  
www.redcross.org

**American Veterinary  
Medical Association**

www.avma.org

**Citizen Corps/Community  
Emergency Response Teams**

www.ready.gov/community-emergency-  
response-team

**Environmental Protection Agency**

Telephone: 202-272-0167  
Toll-free telephone for literature  
requests only: 800-490-9198  
www.epa.gov

**Federal Emergency  
Management Agency**

Telephone: 800-621-3362  
Toll-free telephone for literature  
requests only: 800-480-2520  
www.fema.gov

**National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration**

Telephone: 202-482-6090  
www.noaa.gov

**Radio Amateur Civil  
Emergency Service**

www.usraces.org

**Ready.gov**

Telephone: 202-282-8000 or  
202-447-3543 TTY  
www.ready.gov

**U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security**

Telephone: 202-282-8000  
www.dhs.gov

**U.S. Department of Transportation**

NHTSA Office of Emergency  
Medical Services  
Telephone: 202-366-5440  
www.transportation.gov

**U.S. Geological Survey**

Toll-free telephone: 888-275-8747  
www.usgs.gov

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