Measuring Preparedness in Vermilion County

Emergency Plans

Only 36% of Vermilion County Residents have a Household Emergency Plan.

Of those who have Emergency Plans, only 15% have practiced or drilled their plan.

Preparedness Levels

Participants were asked how prepared they felt their households were in the event of a specific hazard. The chart below shows the percentages of households that felt they were at least somewhat prepared. Those with lower incomes and education were more likely to report they were not at all prepared.

- Terrorist Event: 18%
- Tornado: 68%
- Winter Storm: 81%
- Disease Outbreak: 22%
- No Water: 31%
- No Electricity: 48%
- No Communications: 33%

Likelihood of a Disaster

Participants rated how likely they thought the following disasters would occur in our community:

- Natural Disaster: 78%
- Hazardous Material: 51%
- Outbreak: 61%
- Terrorism: 27%

Natural Disasters and Disease Outbreaks were rated more likely to occur than hazardous materials and most felt it wasn’t likely that there would be a terrorist event here. The lower the education and income level, the less likely they thought a disaster would occur.

Preparedness Kits

The Best Way to Be Prepared

- Only 25% of participants have been prepared for at least 6 months. Highest numbers to respond that they plan to do nothing at all were among high school graduates and those with a Master’s Degree for their education levels.

- Only 32% of participants responded that they have put together a disaster kit at home. 75% of African Americans who responded did not have a disaster kit at home. Disaster kits at home should include at least 3 days worth of food and water, among other supplies.

- Only 38% responded that they have an emergency kit in their vehicles. This includes flashlights, food, water, batteries, blankets, shovel, etc.

Best Way to Get Information

Participants responded that they like to get their information from:

- TV/Radio: 76%
- Weather Alert App on Phone: 37%
- Internet: 17%
- Familiar with Outdoor Sirens: 28%
- Familiar with Nixle Alerts, but only 17% are signed up.
- Familiar with their community’s emergency plans: 17%
- Familiar with their local hazards: 76%

Familiar