WATER

Prepare and store **at least a 72 hour** supply of water for all household members.

**HOW MUCH**

You should store at least one gallon of water per person per day. To determine adequate quantities, take the following into account:

- Individual needs vary depending on age, physical condition, activity, diet, and climate.
- Children, nursing mothers, and ill people need more water.
- Very hot temperatures can double the amount of water needed.
- A medical emergency might require additional water.

If you choose to use your own storage containers choose two-liter plastic soft drink bottles – not plastic jugs or cardboard containers that have had milk or fruit juice in them. Milk protein and fruit sugars cannot be adequately removed from these containers and can provide an environment causing bacterial growth when water is stored in them. Cardboard containers are not a good choice since they can leak easily and are not designed for long-term storage of liquids. Glass containers are not recommended because they can break and are heavy.

**HOW TO STORE**

For the safest and most reliable emergency supply of water, it is recommended you purchase commercially bottled water. Keep bottled water in its original container and do not open it until you need to use it. Observe the expiration or “use by” date and rotate your supply to ensure freshness. Do not store bottled water on cement plastic can absorb the chemicals contained in concrete.

**IF YOU ARE PREPARING YOUR OWN CONTAINERS OF WATER**

It is recommended you purchase food-grade water storage containers from surplus or camping supply stores for water storage. Before filling with water, thoroughly clean the containers with dishwashing soap and water, then rinse completely to eliminate residual soap. Follow directions below for filling container with water.

**IF STORING WATER IN PLASTIC SODA BOTTLES, FOLLOW THESE STEPS**

Thoroughly clean the bottles with dishwashing soap and water, then rinse completely so there is no residual soap. Sanitize the bottles by adding a solution of 1 teaspoon of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to a quart of water. Swish the sanitizing solution in the bottle so that it touches all surfaces. After sanitizing the bottle, thoroughly rinse out the sanitizing solution with clean water.

**FILLING WATER IN 1-GALLON CONTAINERS**

Fill the bottle to the top with regular tap water. If the tap water has been commercially treated from a water utility with chlorine, you do not need to add anything else to the water to keep it clean. If the water you are using comes from a well or water source that is not treated with chlorine, add two drops of non-
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scented liquid household chlorine bleach to the 1-gallon of water. Tightly close the container using the original cap. Be careful not to contaminate the cap by touching the inside of it with your finger. Place a date on the outside of the container so that you know when you filled it. Store all items in a cool dark place. Replace the water every six months if not using commercially bottled water.

**WATER PURIFICATION**

If you need to purify water and do not have any purification tablets or are unable to boil water for 10 minutes, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services suggest the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Bleach (if water is clear)</th>
<th>Bleach (if water is cloudy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 gallon</td>
<td>8 drops</td>
<td>16 drops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 gallons</td>
<td>½ teaspoon</td>
<td>1 teaspoon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use liquid chlorine bleach (5.25% hypochlorite). **Wait 30 minutes before drinking.**