

Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge Homework

D. Walker, American Red Cross

In addition to this, you will need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). Updated: January 2009.

NOTE: You MUST download and print out ([workbook](#) below) and bring to the class.

1. Earn the First Aid merit badge. *(Note: Other requirements may be completed before you earn First Aid merit badge)*

2c. 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.

8. Do the following:

- a. 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.
- b. Take part in at least one troop mobilization. *Before the exercise*, describe your part to your counselor. Afterward, conduct an "after-action" lesson, discussing what you learned during the exercise that required changes or adjustments to the plan.
- c. Prepare a personal emergency service pack for a mobilization call.

Prepare a family 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

Merit Badge Workbook

Read "the merit badge pamphlet on the subject...meet the requirements as they are stated." - [Boy Scout Requirements pp. 22-23](#)

Each "Scout must be reviewed individually by the counselor." - [Advancement Policies p. 26](#) See the [Online Resources](#).

Workbook developer: craig@craiglincoln.com. Requirements revised: 2008, Workbook updated: April 2009.

Scout's Name: _____

Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____

Counselor's Ph #: _____

1. Earn the First Aid merit badge. _____

(Per National, other requirements may be completed before you earn First Aid merit badge because: "Unless otherwise specified, work for a requirement can be started at any time." - [Boy Scout Requirements p. 22](#))

2. Do the following:

a. Discuss with your counselor the aspects of emergency preparedness:

1. **Prepare** for emergency situations _____

2. **Respond** to emergency situations _____

3. **Recover** from emergency situations _____

4. **Mitigate** and prevent emergency situations _____

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

b. Make a chart that demonstrates your understanding of each of the three aspects of emergency preparedness in requirement 2a with regard to 10 of the situations listed below. **You must use situations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5** below in boldface but you may choose any other five listed for a total of 10 situations. Discuss this chart with your counselor.

Situation	Prepare	Respond	Recover	Mitigate
1. Home kitchen fire				
2. Home basement/ storage room/garage fire				
3. Explosion in the home				
4. Automobile accident				
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. Flash flooding in town or the country				
10. Mountain/ backcountry accident				
11. Boating accident				
12. Gas leak in a home or a building				
13. Tornado or hurricane				
14. Major flood				
15. Nuclear power plant emergency				
16. Avalanche (snowslide or rockslide)				
17. 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 room 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 move 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. 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

Be prepared to do: _____

Training they need: _____

Safety Precautions: _____

2. Messenger service and communication

Be prepared to do: _____

Training they need: _____

Safety Precautions: _____

3. Collection and distribution services

Be prepared to do: _____

Training they need: _____

Safety Precautions: _____

4. Group feeding, shelter, and sanitation

Be prepared to do: _____

Training they need: _____

Safety Precautions: _____

b. Identify the government or community agencies that normally handle and prepare for the emergency services listed under 6a,

and explain to your counselor 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 **prepare**, **respond to**, **recover** from, and **mitigate and prevent** emergency situations in your community. _____

Discuss this information with your counselor and apply what you discover to the chart you created for requirement 2b.

7. Take part in an emergency service project, either a real one or a practice drill, with a Scouting unit or a community agency. _____

8. Do the following:

a. Prepare a written plan for mobilizing your troop when needed to do emergency service. If there is already a plan, explain it. _____

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. ([Sample Home Safety Checklist](#)) _____

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.

Activity:	Possible Hazards:	Plan to correct:	Reasons for corrections:
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Sample Home Safety Checklist

Sample Checklist for Requirement 9 a. Check safety steps that being taking in your home. Write N/A if the item is not applicable. Items left blank may present a safety hazard. This list provides some sample safety steps you might take. See your Safety Merit Badge pamphlet and counselor for more information. Ask your parent or guardian before making any changes.

Stairways, Halls, and Outdoor Steps

- Stairways with three or more steps have a strong handrail.
- Stairs/halls are kept free from boxes, toys, brooms, tools, etc.
- Gates at top and bottom of stairs prevent children from falling.
- The head and foot of stairs have no small or loose rugs.
- Stair carpeting or covering is fastened securely.
- Stairways & halls have good lighting, controllable at each end.

Kitchen

- Matches are kept where children cannot get them.
- Knives & sharp instruments are kept in knife drawers or holder.
- Can openers don't leave sharp edges on cans.
- Disinfectants & cleaning products are out of reach of children.
- Pan handles are turned away from stove edges.
- Spilled grease, water, or bits of food are wiped up immediately.
- Pot holders are within easy reach.
- A fire extinguisher is mounted near the stove.

Bathroom

- Tub and shower are equipped with strong handholds.
- Tub floor has non-slip surface.
- Poisons are marked, sealed shut, and out of reach of children.
- Medicines are out of reach of children in childproof containers.
- No one takes medicine in the dark.

Attic and Basement

- Ladder is strong, solid, and sturdily constructed.
- Stairway is sturdy and well lighted.
- Children keep skates and play gear in a specific place.
- Walls and beams are free from protruding nails.
- Fuses or circuit breakers are the proper size.
- Rubbish & flammable materials are in covered metal cans.
- Wastepaper is kept away from furnace and stairs.

Living Room and Dining Room

- Furniture is placed to allow easy passage in an emergency.

- Before bedtime, furniture placement is checked for orderliness.
- Furniture and woodwork solid, in good repair, and free from.
- Fireplace screen fits snugly.
- Rugs are fastened or laid on non-slip pads.
- Rugs are kept from curling at their edges.
- Wax on floors is thoroughly buffed.
- Fire in fireplace is extinguished at bedtime.
- Candles are in stable holders and fully extinguished after use.

Bedroom

- Smoke alarm has fresh battery or electrical connection & is tested regularly.
- Carbon monoxide detector has fresh battery or electrical connection and is tested regularly.
- Furniture placement for clear passage between bed and door.
- Light switch or lamp is within easy reach from bed.
- A night-light illuminates bedroom or hall.
- Bureau and dresser drawers are closed when not in use.
- Bar across bunk beds helps prevent falls.
- Children are taught not to lean against windows or screens.
- Sturdily screen low windows to prevent children from falling.
- Smoking in bed is prohibited.
- Gas and electric heating devices are turned off at bedtime.

Nursery

- Bars on cribs are closely spaced.
- Crib is approved by Consumer Products or similar.
- Crib is free from sharp edges or corners.
- Sleeping garments and covers keep baby warm without danger of smothering.
- Pillows are kept out of bassinet or crib.
- No thin, plastic material is in or near the crib.
- Children are taught not to give marbles, etc. to younger children.
- Toys are sturdy & have no sharp edges.
- Nontoxic paint is used on baby furniture and toys.
- All houseplants are nonpoisonous.

Sample Home Safety Checklist (page 2)**Stoves, Furnaces, and Heaters**

- ___ Stoves are away from curtains.
- ___ Stoves & furnaces are inspected & cleaned annually.
- ___ Gas burners are properly adjusted and free from leaks.
- ___ Gas water and space heaters are equipped with vents or flues.
- ___ Water heater or boiler has a safety valve & is checked yearly.
- ___ Flames of gas burners are protected from drafts.
- ___ Insulating shield protects woodwork within 18" of furnace, etc.
- ___ Keep flammable materials away from stoves, furnaces, etc.
- ___ A wrench is stored near the shut-off valve of outside gas line.

Porch, Yard, and Garage

- ___ Railings and banisters are sound and inspected periodically.
- ___ Steps and walks are kept free from ice and snow.
- ___ Yard/play space are free from holes, stones, glass, etc.
- ___ Tools and dangerous articles are out of reach of children.
- ___ Dangerous products & chemicals are kept in original containers in locked storage areas.
- ___ Wires and low fences are brightly painted or clearly marked.
- ___ Wells, cisterns, and pits are kept securely covered.
- ___ Disposable materials are not burned outside.
- ___ An area is marked off in the garage for bicycles, wagons, etc.
- ___ Lawn mower is equipped with proper safeguards.

Workshop

- ___ Good ventilation exists, especially when sanding.
- ___ Safety goggles and/or face mask are available, with eyewash.
- ___ Baking soda is kept handy to neutralize acid burns.
- ___ All electrical tools are either three-wire or double-insulated.
- ___ Work area is well lit & free of clutter, scraps, rags.
- ___ All tools have a place & are in their place.
- ___ Guards are in place on all power tools.
- ___ A push stick is available for use with power saws.

Electrical Devices and Fixtures

- ___ Electrical fixtures and appliances are located & used beyond arm's length of the sink, stove, tub, shower, or other grounded metal unless outlet is protected by a ground-fault interrupter.
- ___ Do not touch electrical fixtures or appliances with wet hands.
- ___ Disconnect seldom-used appliances when not in use.
- ___ All pull-type sockets have an insulating link.

- ___ Household appliances are disconnected before repairs.
- ___ Unused, open, screw-type sockets are plugged closed.
- ___ Frayed or worn electric cords are promptly replaced.
- ___ Long trailing cords are not in evidence.
- ___ Cords are kept out from under rugs, doors, and furniture.
- ___ UA-approved extension cords are the proper size.
- ___ Children are taught never to touch electric sockets or fixtures.
- ___ Fuses are adequate for the load and are not bypassed.
- ___ Circuit breakers are not overloaded.

General

- ___ At least one smoke detector in each bedroom & garage.
- ___ Everything has a place and is in its place.
- ___ Stepladders are in good repair and stored out of the way.
- ___ Window screens and storm windows are securely fastened.
- ___ Guns are stored unloaded and in locked cases.
- ___ Guns and ammunition are stored separately.
- ___ Children are permitted to use only blunt-end scissors.
- ___ Housework clothing has no drooping sleeves, sashes, or frills.
- ___ Shoes worn for housework have low heels.
- ___ All shoes are in good repair.
- ___ Kerosene, gasoline, paint thinners, and other volatile materials are stored outside in special, clearly marked metal containers.
- ___ Oil mops, dust rags, painting equipment, and other oily materials are stored outside in open metal containers.
- ___ Everyone turns on a light before entering a dark room.
- ___ Matches are extinguished before they're thrown away.
- ___ Children are never permitted to play with matches.
- ___ Fire extinguishers are readily available.

For Emergency

- ___ Know how to get emergency help (911, poison control, etc.).
- ___ Be able to find water, gas, & electric shutoffs. Check annually.
- ___ First aid kit approved by your doctor/American Red Cross.
- ___ Know basic first aid procedures.
- ___ Have a fire escape plan from your home.
- ___ Emergency water supply.
- ___ Handheld flashlights readily available.
- ___ In earthquake-prone areas, make sure that the water heater and bookcases are bolted to the walls.