

THE ROLE OF THE CITIZENS OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Source: Santa Rosa County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency/plans.html>

Each level of government conducts effort on behalf of the citizens of Santa Rosa County to prevent emergencies, and to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from those incidents that happen to occur. However, each member of the community is a stakeholder in the process, and as such, has certain personal responsibilities that contribute to the community's ability to handle emergencies. Some of these responsibilities are detailed below.

Prevention:

1. Maintaining situational awareness
2. Reporting suspicious activities, or potentially hazardous conditions to local authorities
3. Following local and State laws enacted to avoid emergencies (traffic laws, hazardous waste disposal, safe burning practices, etc.)
4. Removing and properly disposing of hazards that may exist on personal property (flammable materials or debris, household chemicals, dangerous animals, unsafe structures, etc.)

Preparedness:

1. Participating in community training in such activities as First Aid and CPR, in order to sustain life until help arrives
2. Taking steps to educate each member of the family on the hazards faced in Santa Rosa County and the actions to help prepare for each hazard
3. Creating a family plan in case of emergency or disaster
4. Preparing emergency kits able to sustain each member of the family for at least 3 days, minimum
5. Taking actions to plan/save for additional personal expenses that may occur as a result of extended evacuations or dislocations
6. Being familiar with local evacuation routes, emergency numbers, fire escape plans, shelter-in-place plans, etc.
7. Monitoring local media, including local television channels, and radio used to disseminate emergency information
8. Facilitating the preparedness of friends and neighbors
9. Providing constructive input into the emergency management process, either individually or through involvement in various local preparedness organizations
10. Joining volunteer response organizations, if able, such as local fire departments, Search and Rescue, the Community Emergency Response Teams, Neighborhood Watch, or any of the other numerous volunteer organizations in Santa Rosa County

Response

1. Helping to the level trained, or obtaining help, for those in need
2. Taking action to mitigate an emergency, if able, or calling for assistance
3. Following threat-specific recommendations or mandates (Evacuation orders, curfews, shelter-in-place orders, etc.) issued in order to facilitate emergency response
4. Participating, to the extent possible, in community action groups, such as Community Emergency Response Teams, etc.
5. Taking actions necessary to ensure personal safety

Recovery

1. Taking actions necessary to facilitate personal recovery (such as making repairs, cleaning up debris, determining a personal plan of action for individual recovery)
2. Reporting needs or available resources to the Santa Rosa County Emergency Management Director, or Emergency Operations Center, if activated.
3. Reaching out to those in need through individual action, church groups, or volunteer organizations

Mitigation

1. Removing potentially hazardous conditions before an emergency develops
2. Determining and implementing actions that can be taken to reduce the potential for personal loss due to hazards (smoke detectors, homeowner's insurance, flood insurance, crop insurance, removing debris from clogged ditches on personal property, factoring mitigation into new construction, landscaping with fire resistant, drought resistant plants, or cold-resistant species of plants, etc.)