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Region 6 Homeland Security Board and Safeguard Iowa Partnership Announce Kick Off of "20 Weeks to Preparedness Program"

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Are you prepared for an emergency? Whether it be a tornado, flood, terrorism, or other disaster event, citizens need to be prepared in order to take care of their family, neighbors, and community.

How well are you prepared? Ask yourself these three questions from the Red Cross Ready Quotient Survey:

1. In the last year have you made a specific plan for how you and your family would communicate in an emergency situation if you were separated?
2. In the last year, have you prepared a disaster supply kit with emergency supplies, like water, food, and medicine that is kept in a designated place in your home?
3. In the last year, have you established a specific meeting place to reunite in the event you and your family cannot return home or are evacuated?

Everyone needs to be able to take care of themselves, their family, and possibly their neighbors in the initial stages of a disaster event. However, the task of preparing for such an event can seem to be overwhelming and costly. This is why the Region 6 Homeland Security Board and Safeguard Iowa Partnership have partnered to bring the "20 Weeks to Preparedness Program" to your area. This program will help prepare you and your family, a little at a time, over a 20 week period.

Each week new preparedness information will be shared in this publication including a list of items to gather or purchase for your disaster supply kit. [You may also sign up at www.safeguardiowa.org/subscribe-to-be-prepared-to-receive-weekly-reminders-and-announcements-that-will-help-you-and-your-family-become-prepared.](http://www.safeguardiowa.org/subscribe-to-be-prepared-to-receive-weekly-reminders-and-announcements-that-will-help-you-and-your-family-become-prepared)

By participating in this 20 Weeks to Preparedness Program:

- You and your family will be prepared for any emergency.
- You will develop an emergency kit (home and vehicle).
- You will develop a family communications plan.
- You will develop/test your home evacuation plan.
- You will have copies of important documents and document contents of your home.
- You will be self sufficient during an emergency.
- You will improve your health, your family's health, and the health and well being of our community during an emergency.

Additional information is available by contacting your local emergency management coordinator at 563-886-3355 or visiting their website at www.cedarcounty.org click on office of Emergency Management Agency in right margin you will find 20 weeks to Preparedness Program, or visit Cedar County Public Health web at www.cedarcountypublichealth.org [Visit Safeguard Iowa Partnership at www.safeguardiowa.org](http://www.safeguardiowa.org), on twitter [@safeguardiowa](https://twitter.com/safeguardiowa) or Facebook at www.facebook.com/safeguardiowa.

The Region 6 Homeland Security Board is comprised of fourteen counties in eastern Iowa that coordinate homeland security planning, training, exercise, response, and recovery. The counties included are Benton, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Cedar, Clayton, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Iowa, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Scott.

The Safeguard Iowa Partnership is a voluntary coalition of the state's business and government leaders, who share a commitment to working together to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters in Iowa.