

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POINTERS

Preparing Your Loved Ones for Emergencies

The song states that the appropriate gift to give your loved ones on the *First Day of Christmas* is a *Partridge in a Pear Tree*. We believe that the best thing you can do for them is to ensure that they have not just a safe and happy holiday season, but continue to live as safely as possible all year.

To help you with unique gift ideas designed to keep those you care about as safe as possible, we've put together the following recommendations for gifts for the *Twelve Days of Christmas*.



On the First Day of Christmas

Purchase a **smoke alarm**. Smoke alarms should be on each level of the home – outside bedrooms. Check them every month and replace their batteries twice a year. An easy way to remember is to change out the batteries when you change your clocks for Daylight Savings.



On the Second Day of Christmas

Purchase a **carbon monoxide alarm**. 1,500 people die and 10,000 seek emergency medical attention each year due to accidental exposure to this colorless, odorless and very deadly gas.



On the Third Day of Christmas

Purchase a **fire extinguisher** and teach all household members how to use it.



On the Fourth Day of Christmas

Purchase a **fire escape ladder**. Homes with more than one floor should have at least one fire escape ladder stored on all upper floors that's easily accessible and that all family members know how to safely use.



On the Fifth Day of Christmas

Put together a **disaster supply kit**. Once disaster hits, you won't have time to shop or search for supplies. You must be prepared and assemble necessary items *before* it strikes.



On the Sixth Day of Christmas

Remember your pets. Pets depend on us for their safety and well-being. Don't forget about them when planning ahead. They will need specialized supplies following a disaster too.



On the Seventh Day of Christmas

Purchase a **tone-activated weather alert radio**. These small, relatively inexpensive devices are your direct connection to the Emergency Alert System 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week. They provide life saving information regarding severe weather warnings, area evacuations and even Amber Alerts.



On the Eighth Day of Christmas

Purchase a **first aid kit**. Because the first five minutes of a medical emergency are critical, everyone should have at least basic first aid supplies in their home, vehicle and boat.



On the Ninth Day of Christmas

Attend **first aid and CPR training**. Learning these basic skills has been proven to save lives. A gift certificate for a course from the American Red Cross would make a great and unique stocking stuffer!



On the Tenth Day of Christmas

Purchase **house numbers**. House numbers should be clearly posted on the front of each home so emergency workers can easily locate you, even at night. Every moment counts when lives and property are at risk.



On the Eleventh Day of Christmas

Purchase a **flashlight**. A flashlight is a very important tool in protecting you and your loved ones. They not only provide light to help us maneuver about safely, but they can also provide comfort and are much safer than candles. Every home should have them easily accessible, along with spare batteries.



On the Twelfth Day of Christmas

Create a **list of emergency phone numbers**. Post it near the phone or in the front of the phone book. Include a copy in your disaster supply kit and make sure it includes an out-of-state contact person as a check-in point.