

A Moment of Self-Reliant Wisdom

Topic: Emergency Sanitation

Learning objective: Family shall be able to design, create and implement a makeshift sanitation station and know how to dispose of garbage in a sanitary fashion.

After a major disaster, if water and sewage lines have been disrupted you may need to improvise emergency sanitation facilities.

Supplies

- Always have basic sanitation supplies on hand.
- Medium-sized plastic bucket with tight lid.
- Household chlorine bleach and powdered chlorine lime (proper storage is required; lime is an oxidizer & corrosive)
- Toilet paper.
- Plastic garbage bags and ties. (heavy duty) & Zip-lock bags
- Soap, liquid detergent, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo
- Handy-Wipes, Wet-N-Dry Towelette for water free cleanup
- Insect spray

Sanitation

Build a makeshift toilet.

- If sewage lines are broken, but the toilet bowl is usable, place a garbage bag inside the bowl.
- Portable camp toilet with chemicals.
- Line toilet bowl or a medium sized bucket with a garbage bag.
- Make a toilet seat out of two boards place parallel to each other across the bucket. An old toilet seat will also work.

Sanitize Waste

- After each use, pour a disinfectant such as bleach into the container. This will help avoid infection and stop the spread of disease.
- Cover the container tightly WHEN NOT IN USE.

Waste Disposal

- Bury garbage and human waste to avoid the spread of disease by rats and insects.
- Dig a pit 2 to 3 feet deep and at least 50 feet downhill or away from any well, spring or water supply. Mark location of buried materials.
- If the garbage cannot be buried immediately, strain any liquids into the emergency toilet.
- Wrap the residue in several layers of newspapers and store it in a large can with a tight fitting lid.
- Place the can outside until it can be buried.

