



# Disaster Preparation Tips for Renters

## 8 Tips for Apartment Preparedness

1. **Make sure to have renter's insurance.** Renter's insurance is the safest way to make sure you are covered if something were to happen in your apartment. It is also one of the most affordable types of insurance to have.
2. **Take inventory on a regular basis.** The only way to prove what items you own is by keeping an up-to-date inventory of your belongings. Set a goal of taking pictures of new items every 3-6 months.
3. **Meet your neighbors.** If a disaster were to happen, it's helpful to know the people around you when it does. Knowing names could help if a search and rescue were necessary.
4. **Make a kit.** Having a disaster kit is key to disaster preparation. Worried about the cost and space of a kit? Ask a neighbor if they have extra space, or put your kit in the bottom of your closet.
5. **Know where shelter is.** Does your apartment have a staircase that leads to the unknown? Take the time to see where all stairs lead and know if your building has a basement or underground area built in.
6. **Have a plan.** Make sure you know where to meet your friends or roommates if something were to happen. Alert your neighbors of your plan to evacuate if an emergency would occur.
7. **Sign up for CODERED.** CODERED is a county-wide system that alerts you via home or cell phone when a storm is near you. The system is based on your address, so you will get location specific information each time.
8. **Volunteer for the MRC.** Once you have your apartment prepared for a disaster, think about volunteering for the Medical Reserve Corps. Whether you have a medical background or are just a student, there is a place for everyone to help during an emergency.

Scan the QR code to the right  
for a budget for a friendly plan  
to build a disaster supply kit:



### Local Emergency Phone Numbers

**Madison County Sheriff:** (618) 692-4433

**Madison County Health Department:** (618) 692-8954

**Madison County Emergency Management Agency/CODERED:** (618) 692-0537

**Local Police Department:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Local Fire Department:** \_\_\_\_\_



Madison County Health Department Medical Reserve Corps needs volunteers! We are looking for all kinds of people with all kinds of talents including clerical helpers, people to assist with crowd control, and people to restock supplies. Volunteers will be asked to help in an emergency. The goal of this program is to help prevent further spread of disease whenever possible. If you have questions, or would like to sign up to volunteer, please visit [www.madisonchd.org/medical-reserve-corps.shtml](http://www.madisonchd.org/medical-reserve-corps.shtml) or call Cathy Paone, Volunteer Coordinator, at (618) 296-6096.

For every medical person, 4-5 non-medical people are needed.

## Simple Tips for Taking Inventory

When taking inventory of your belongings, it's important to be as specific as possible. Here are a few tips to make the process a breeze:

- Make a list of your belongs with details about each item.
- Create a log book of serial numbers and receipts for big items
- Take photographs of everything possible.
- Review the policy focusing on limits and deductibles.
- Update your list at least once a year (Update more frequently if you are purchasing new items like TVs or computers).
- Tag or engrave more common items like your bicycle with your name; that way if it is lost or stolen the odds of retrieving it are higher.
- Always make sure to renew your policy if you are still renting.



Madison County's emergency notification system is in service. Based on your address, this service will only alert you when you are in immediate danger. Sign up for **CODERED** at the Madison County Management Agency's website: [www.mymadisoncountyma.org](http://www.mymadisoncountyma.org). Those without internet access may call the Madison County EMA office at (618) 692-0537 Monday through Friday to register over the phone. Please share this important information with your family, friends, and neighbors in Madison County.

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Madison County Health Department (2011). *Medical Reserve Corps*. Retrieved July 30, 2013 from Madison County Health Department Web Site [www.madisonchd.org](http://www.madisonchd.org)  
Ready.gov (2013, February 12). *Neighborhoods, Condominiums, and Apartments*. Retrieved July 29, 2013 from Ready Web Site [www.ready.gov/neighborhoods-and-apartments](http://www.ready.gov/neighborhoods-and-apartments)