



Emergency Preparedness

Scouts BSA · Health & Safety · Eagle-required

Name

Started

Completed

Emergency Preparedness is about being ready to help when things go wrong, at home, in your community, and on the trail. You'll make real plans for your family, practice rescue and transport skills, and learn how communities respond to disasters. It's one of the Eagle-required choices, and the skills last a lifetime.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/merit-badges/emergency-preparedness/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

1 Emergency situations

Tips for this section: Pick 10 emergencies from the list, starting with ones that could happen where you live, and chart prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery for each.

Example for this section: Chart a flood: prevention (don't build in the floodplain), protection (sandbags, moving valuables up), mitigation (raising the furnace), response (evacuate, call for help), recovery (clean up safely, check on neighbors). Then do the same for nine more from the list, like a stovetop fire, a tornado, and a car crash.

- ☐ **1a** Discuss with your counselor the five aspects of emergency preparedness (prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery), including key questions to ask yourself about each

- ☐ **1b** Using a chart, spreadsheet, or other counselor-approved method, show how prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery apply to 10 of these emergencies, and discuss your findings with your counselor (choose 10 of 21 below)

- ☐ **1b1** Fire on a home stovetop or in an oven

- ☐ **1b2** Flammable liquid fire at home

- ☐ **1b3** Gas leak in or near a home, or from outdoor cooking

- ☐ **1b4** Food poisoning

- ☐ **1b5** Car crash

- ☐ **1b6** Vehicle broken down in the desert

- ☐ **1b7** Vehicle stuck in a blizzard

- ☐ **1b8** Injury in the backcountry

- ☐ **1b9** Boating or water accident

- ☐ **1b10** Toxic chemical spill or release

- ☐ **1b11** Emergency at a nuclear power plant

- ☐ **1b12** Fire or explosion in a public place

- ☐ **1b13** Violence in a public place

- ☐ **1b14** Wildland fire

- ☐ **1b15** Avalanche (snowslide or rockslide)

Emergency Preparedness worksheet (continued)

☐ **1b16** Earthquake

☐ **1b17** Tsunami

☐ **1b18** Major flood or flash flood with loss of water service

☐ **1b19** Hurricane with loss of power

☐ **1b20** Tornado

☐ **1b21** Lightning storm

2 Family emergency planning

Tips for this section: Sit down with your family to make a plan and a kit. Practice your escape route so everyone knows where to meet.

Example for this section: A family plan might list two meeting places (the mailbox, and a relative's or friend's house across town), an out-of-area contact everyone memorizes, and a kit with water, food, a flashlight, a radio, medicines, copies of documents, and pet supplies.

- ☐ **2a** Hold a family meeting to talk through the situations on your requirement 1b chart and make plans for sheltering in place and for evacuating your home; discuss the meeting and plans with your counselor

- ☐ **2b** Create and practice a family plan for escaping a home fire, with a floor plan showing escape routes and a map showing a safe meeting spot; discuss the plan with your counselor

- ☐ **2c** Using the merit badge pamphlet's checklist or one your counselor approves, assemble or check your family's disaster kit for both evacuating and sheltering in place; review with your counselor why each item is needed and how it's used

3 Preventing accidents and emergencies: Choose 1 of 2

Tips for this section: Walk through your home with a parent checking smoke alarms, exits, and hazards, then decide on any fixes together.

- ☐ **3a** With an adult's help, use the pamphlet's home safety checklist or one your counselor approves to inspect a home (or a similar building nearby or at camp) for hazards; give your counselor the completed checklist and discuss what you found

- ☐ **3b** Make counselor-approved emergency prevention plans for five family outings, like a picnic, movie, worship service, beach trip, visit to a relative, or ball game or concert; each plan looks at hazards, proposes prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery steps, and explains why

4 Safe rescues

Tips for this section: Practice reaching and throwing rescues so you help without becoming a victim yourself. Work with a trained adult on any water rescue skills.

Example for this section: Show the order: reach (hold out a pole or branch from the shore), throw (toss a rope or float), row (only with training), and go (only with lifesaving training). For electrical or fire scenes, stop, call 911, and don't become a second victim.

- ☐ **4a** Show how to rescue someone from a live household electrical wire without endangering yourself

- ☐ **4b** Show how to rescue someone from a building filled with carbon monoxide without endangering yourself

- ☐ **4c** Show how to help someone whose clothes are on fire without endangering yourself

- ☐ **4d** Show how to rescue a drowning person, including on ice, using rescues that don't require swimming and without endangering yourself

5 Signaling for help

Tips for this section: Try out signals like a whistle, mirror, or brightly colored ground markers. Practice them on a campout.

- ☐ **5a** Show three ways to get the attention of, and communicate with, rescue aircraft or drones

- ☐ **5b** Show ways to get the attention of ground searchers if you're lost in the wilderness

- ☐ **5c** Show ways to signal searchers on the water if your motorboat or sailboat has capsized or broken down and you're stranded

- ☐ **6** With a partner, show two good ways to move an injured person from a remote area on improvised stretchers that save rescuers' energy while keeping the injured person safe and protected

Tip: Practice building improvised stretchers with your patrol. Use a willing partner and go slowly.

Example: With your patrol, make two improvised stretchers, like one from two poles and a blanket and one from poles slipped through the sleeves of buttoned jackets. Use a willing partner, go slowly, and talk about when moving someone is worse than waiting.

7 Incident management (NIMS and ICS)

Tips for this section: Look up how your county or city handles emergencies. Ask how different groups work together during a disaster.

Example for this section: Explain ICS with a real example: at a big fire, one incident commander is in charge, with sections for operations, planning, logistics, and finance, so fire, police, EMS, and volunteers all know who reports to whom.

- ☐ **7a** Describe what the National Incident Management System (NIMS) is and how the Incident Command System (ICS) works locally

- ☐ **7b** Learn how your community and its leaders manage and train for disasters, and discuss it with your counselor

- ☐ **7c** Discuss how a Scout troop could use ICS to help during an emergency

8 Emergency service

Tips for this section: Plan how your troop would gather and help in an emergency, and look for a service project with a local emergency group.

Example for this section: Your troop's mobilization plan might be a phone tree, a meeting place, and a list of what each Scout brings. For service, help at a Red Cross blood drive, a community preparedness fair, or a disaster drill with your troop.

8a Troop roles in emergency services

- ☐ **8a1** Discuss with your counselor the duties a Scout troop should be ready for, the training needed, and the safety precautions to take for crowd and traffic control

- ☐ **8a2** Discuss with your counselor the duties a Scout troop should be ready for, the training needed, and the safety precautions to take for carrying messages during an incident

- ☐ **8a3** Discuss with your counselor the duties a Scout troop should be ready for, the training needed, and the safety precautions to take for collecting and distributing supplies

- ☐ **8a4** Discuss with your counselor the duties a Scout troop should be ready for, the training needed, and the safety precautions to take for group feeding, shelter, and sanitation

- ☐ **8b** Write a plan for mobilizing your troop for emergency service; if your troop already has one, present it to your counselor and explain your role in making it work

- ☐ **8c** Using the pamphlet's checklist or one your counselor approves, pack or check your own emergency service pack for when your troop is mobilized, and explain to your counselor why each item is needed and how it's used

- ☐ **8d** Take part in a real or practice emergency service project with a Scout troop, a community agency, at Scout camp, or at a school, and review with your counselor what you learned and practiced

- ☐ **9** Earn the First Aid merit badge

Tip: Work on First Aid early since it builds skills you'll use throughout this badge.

10 Careers and hobbies: Choose 1 of 3

Tips for this section: Talk with a firefighter, EMT, or emergency manager about their job, or try volunteering with a response group.

- ☐ **10a** Interview an emergency services coordinator or civil servant about their disaster management work, their duties, and how they chose the career; discuss with your counselor what you learned and whether it interests you

- ☐ **10b** Name three careers that use emergency services skills; for one of them, research its training, education, certification, experience, and costs, plus job outlook, starting pay, and advancement; discuss with your counselor what you learned and whether the career interests you

- ☐ **10c** Identify how emergency preparedness skills could support a hobby or healthy lifestyle; research extra training, costs, and helpful organizations; discuss what you learned and possible short- and long-term goals with your counselor