

TOGETHER. HELPING IOWANS.

Prepare Fair 2011

It's hard to predict when a natural or man-made disaster will occur, which is why it's important to be prepared for all types of emergencies. Teaching area residents about preparedness was the goal behind Safeguard Iowa Partnership's 1st annual Prepare Fair held October 8 at Capital Square in Des Moines, Iowa.

The event brought together resources from more than 20 organizations that play a role in disaster preparedness, response or recovery. Local emergency agencies and public and private entities educated the public about how to make a kit, formulate a plan and be informed.

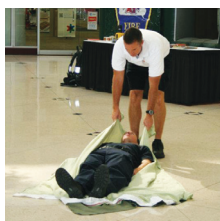
For a community to be prepared for and respond to a disaster, individuals and families must be prepared and understand the importance of having a plan. At the Prepare Fair, families could meet with first responders to understand their role in disaster response and learn what to do to ready themselves for a disaster.

Educational materials were available to attendees and other activities included door prizes, one-on-one meetings with emergency responders,

and tours of a variety of emergency vehicles. Families also could find out how to create a disaster plan and what to include in a 72-hour survival kit. A scavenger hunt was offered to kids as a way to discover what emergency items should be included in a family disaster kit.

The Prepare Fair was free and open to the public.

Safeguard Iowa Partnership is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen the capacity of the state to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters through public-private collaboration.



Participating agencies: American Red Cross, Blank Children's Hospital, CenturyLink, Des Moines Fire Department, Des Moines Police Department, Des Moines Water Works, Fire Chief's Fire House, Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging, Iowa Association of Public Works, Iowa Contingency Planners, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Public Safety, Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council, Iowa National Guard, MidAmerican Energy Company, National Weather Service, Nationwide, Polk County ARES, Polk County Emergency Management, Polk County Public Health, Polk County Sheriff's Office, Safeguard Iowa Partnership and The Salvation Army.

The Safeguard Iowa Partnership is a 501c3 nonprofit involving government, private-sector, higher education and nonprofit organizations. Our mission is to strengthen the capacity of Iowa to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters through public-private collaboration.

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