



Boone County Sheriff's Office

Michael T. Nielsen, Sheriff

1935 West Indianapolis Avenue Lebanon, Indiana 46052
Phone: 765-463-1412 Fax: 765-463-1411
www.boonecountyindianasheriff.com

SAFETY AT HOME

You have probably discussed what to do in the event of a storm, tornado, or fire at your home with your children. You may have practiced a fire drill similar to what they do at school or what you do at work. They know where to go and what to do.

Have you discussed what they are to do in the event they come home and interrupt or suspect a burglary?

Do they know what to do in the event of a home invasion? (Do YOU know what you should do?)

A family should plan for this type of event also. The vast majority of homes will not experience an event such as this, but one should always plan for the worst and hope for the best.

- In the event you arrive home and suspect a burglary, we suggest the following:
 1. Do not go into the house. Go to a neighbor or use your cell phone and call law enforcement. If you can safely stay in a place and continue to observe your home, do so and stay on the telephone with the police Communications Officer. Let the arriving officers check your residence.
 2. If you are already inside and realize the burglary has happened, leave if you have any concerns that someone might still be there. Go to a neighbor or use your cell phone and call law enforcement. If you can safely stay in a place and continue to observe your home, do so and stay on the phone with the police Communications Officer. Let the arriving officers check your residence.

3. If you are inside and are SURE the burglar(s) are no longer there, immediately call the police. DO NOT put things back into place. Leave the “mess” for the officers to observe. You may be destroying evidence. Wait for the officers to arrive. You will be asked to complete a list of items missing. (Common items are stereo equipment, video games, television, cameras, prescription drugs, firearms, computers, cash, coin jars, etc.) You will be asked for serial numbers of items. (Many items have serial numbers on them. Record these and put them in a safe place when you purchase the items. This increases the chance of recovery of the items and conviction of the criminals.) A video or photos of the interior of your residence may help you notice what is missing.
4. Be a good neighbor. You know what looks suspicious in your neighborhood better than law enforcement does. Many times, a neighborhood check after a burglary finds that a neighbor saw something suspicious but “didn’t want to bother the police”. **Bother us.....call and we will respond.**

- Suggestions for a Home Invasion plan:

1. First of all, have a plan. (and keep it simple)
2. Have a “Safe Room” in your home. Frequently this is the parent’s bedroom. There should be a telephone and bright flashlight there. (A cell phone is preferable)
3. Instruct your children as to whether they are to stay in their room and secure the door or come to the “safe room”. (Frequently the children’s rooms are on the opposite of the home from the parent’s room.)
4. Have a simple word to use if a home invasion is happening so that all family members understand and know to begin the plan. (Not a “code” word or a very common phrase, but something such as “Intruders” in a loud and clear voice)
5. It is NOT recommended for you to search your home if you believe there are intruders there. You will do your family no good if you are injured as result.

CALL THE POLICE USE 911 IF IT IS AVAILABLE

Tell the dispatcher who you are, where you are in the house, and what you are wearing. (If you are armed, tell them that as well) It is a good idea for you to have your name, address, telephone number, and location and description of your home written on a card at your emergency telephone. You or your family member might not be thinking clearly as normal during a stressful time and you can read this important information to the Communications Officer.

STAY IN THE SAFE ROOM AND ON THE PHONE WITH THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE POLICE.

6. Keep a house key affixed to a glow stick and have it in the Safe Room. When the police arrive, you can activate the glow stick and toss it out the window to the police.
7. If you suspect the intruders are coming towards your safe room, call out to them that you are on the telephone with the police and they are coming.
8. Weapons (firearms, chemical agents, knives, baseball bats, etc.) are a family decision, not to be taken lightly. If you choose to have a firearm, one should seek professional training in its legal and proper use.



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1905 Indianapolis Avenue Lebanon, Indiana 46052
Phone (765) 482-1412 Indpls (317) 873-5613 Fax: (765) 483-3370
www.boonecountyindianasheriff.com

FIREARMS FOUND BY CHILDREN

- What have you taught your children to do?
- Do you have a plan?

Suggestions of the NRA's Eddie Eagle Program:

1. STOP.
2. DON'T TOUCH.
3. GET AWAY.
4. TELL AN ADULT.



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Michael T. Nielsen, Sheriff

1905 Washington Avenue • Fayetteville, Indiana 46752
Phone: (765) 482-1412 • Fax: (765) 483-5513 • Email: (765) 483-3373
www.boonecountyindianasheriff.com

In Your "Go Bag"

Pack the items below in a sturdy, easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or small suitcase on wheels. Your Go Bag should be stored year-around in an easily accessible place in case you have to leave your home or work suddenly and should contain:

- Copies of your important documents (insurance cards, house deed, photo IDs, passport, bank information, physician contact information, family contact information) in a waterproof container
- Contact and meeting place information for your household, and a small regional map
- Cash (\$50-\$100, in small bills)
- An extra set of car and house keys
- Bottled water and non-perishable food such as energy or granola bars
- Cans of pet food and pet dishes
- A flashlight (traditional bulbs have limited lifespans; LED (light emitting diode flashlights last up to 10 times longer than traditional ones)
- Light-weight, waterproof blankets or plastic ponchos
- Matches
- A first aid kit, with a list of the medications each member of your household takes, why they take them, and their dosages. Store extra medication in your Go Bag and refill it before it expires.

Related Materials

- OnEarth: All Eyes on Irene
- OnEarth Blog: Reading Hurricane History in Layers of Marsh Mud
- Climate Change Threatens Health
- NRDC: Global Warming

- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Child care supplies or other special care items as needed
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust masks, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- A wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- A can opener
- Cell phone with chargers or solar charger
- A complete change of clothing, including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes.

Where to Find Items for Your Go Bag

- Non-perishable food (and a can opener): You can avoid hormone disrupting bisphenol-A in the linings of cans by choosing foods in aseptic cartons such as those produced by Tetra Pak and Sig Combibloc. Eden Foods also does not use BPA in their canned organic foods line (edenfoods.com). See "Cans: A Source of BPA" for more information.
- Radios: Solar radios that can also be hand-cranked mean you have fewer batteries to worry about. Freeplay Eyemax includes an LED flashlight and their Companion radio includes a flashlight and cellphone charger (freeplayenergy.com).
- Flashlights: LED flashlights (of which there are many models) will extend battery life considerably or try a handcranked model like the Freeplay Sherpa.
- Batteries and rechargers: Batteries are snapped up quickly in emergencies, but rechargeables can draw on solar energy to keep the power flowing. For rechargeable batteries of all types, see sundancesolar.com. A variety of solar chargers for car batteries are available at batterystuff.com. To recycle rechargeable batteries at the end of their life, check with your municipal sanitation department.
- Stoves: For extended emergencies, you'll want to cook and may need to purify water by boiling it. Solar cooking provides a clean-energy option where sunlight is plentiful. The Preparedness kit, which includes a pot, water pasteurization indicator, and solar cooker is available through solarcookers.org. Or keep a portable, propane stove and fuel conveniently close to your emergency kit.
- Sewage: Properly handling human waste is a necessity when sewage lines have broken or been overwhelmed by flooding. You can convert your toilet or a 5 gallon pail to an emergency toilet by lining it with two heavy-duty garbage bags and placing kitty litter, fireplace ashes or sawdust at the bottom. Bags should be sealed at the end of the day and removed to a garage or outbuilding. The city may accept bags in the solid waste stream under emergency rules or they may be disposed of in a properly working sewage or septic system. Alternatively, the PETT Portable Toilet provides waste bags and powder to break down waste and render it fit for disposal in regular trash.