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## EC65-738 Last Minute Preparation - Storms, Fallout

Elvin Schultz

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# Last Minute Preparation - Storms, Fallout

By Elvin C. Schultz  
Extension Specialist, Rural Civil Defense

WHEN YOU FIRST HEAR THAT A STORM OR FALLOUT IS ON THE WAY  
(For Advance preparation, more complete suggestions are available  
from your county extension office or civil defense director)

1. Keep listening to the radio for latest local information. Have a battery powered radio in case there is electrical failure (Include extra batteries).
2. Find the safest place for those at home before you send anyone after absent family members. They may be getting home by themselves or may be sheltered by someone else. Use your shelter, storm cellar, basement corner, or whatever area you've planned to use in such emergencies.
3. Fill all available clean containers with fresh water. Try to have about 7 gallons of water for each person at home. Use your water heater, toilet tank, washing machine, laundry tubs, and other containers.
4. Gather food supplies that do not need cooking or refrigeration and store them in or near your shelter. Include foods for babies and other family members with special diets.
5. Collect additional supplies you may need in the shelter:

eating and cooking utensils  
can opener  
civil defense manuals  
first-aid supplies and books  
special medicines  
bedding or sleeping bags  
suitable clothing  
large covered container for human waste

plastic and paper bags  
paper towels  
disinfectant  
toilet articles  
religious materials  
supply of newspapers  
candles, matches, lanterns  
flashlights and extra batteries  
other items:

6. Other precautions:
  - a. Turn off gas supply to all appliances. Turn off the main water valve if there is no pressure.
  - b. Be prepared to disinfect water by boiling for 3 minutes or using 16 drops of liquid chlorine laundry bleach or tincture of iodine for each gallon of water.
7. Keep your family calm by keeping them busy--working, knitting, playing games, etc. If you are in the shelter for an extended period of time, try to follow your normal living routine as much as possible.
8. Stay in your shelter until you are informed that it is safe to leave.