

Community Partnership Connection



September is National Preparedness Month "Make a Plan, Assemble a Kit, and Stay Informed"



September 2012 marks the ninth annual National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, supported by Washoe County Emergency Management.

The Sheriff's Office is concluding our nine part series on Emergency Family Preparedness fittingly during National Preparedness Month. The series was created to help residents and their loved ones prepare for all types of emergencies such as fires, storms, inclement weather, and power outages, with a focus on general family preparedness; including pets. (See e-newsletter issues January-August, 2012 for more information.)

The question to ask is, "Would I be ready if there were an emergency?"

In this final installment of the series, we can help you say "yes" by summarizing the most important parts of being prepared: assembling an emergency supply kit, making your emergency plans, staying informed with tools such as AlertID and getting involved in helping your family, your business, and your community become ready for all types of emergencies.

To learn more visit www.ReadyWashoe.com.

Emergency Family Preparedness Part 9 of 9: Make a Plan; Assemble a Kit and Stay Informed

Make a plan.

A disaster plan begins by conducting a hazard hunt. Try to identify the natural or man-made hazards that could affect you and your loved ones. Meet with your family or household members to prepare and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play. You should identify responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.

This includes planning what to do in case you are separated during an emergency. You should choose two places to meet. One should be right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire. One should be outside your neighborhood, in case you cannot return home or are asked to evacuate. Also, choose an out of area emergency contact person. It may be easier to text or call long distance if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service. Everyone should have emergency contact information in writing or programmed into their cell phones.

Also consider what to do if you have to evacuate. Decide where you would go and what route you would take to get there. Plan ahead for your pets, you may even want to have list of pet friendly hotels/motels. (Animal services will also establish pet shelters in an emergency.)

Assemble a kit.

At a minimum, have the basic supplies listed below. Keep supplies in an easy to carry emergency preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

- A battery powered radio
- A flashlight and extra batteries
- A first aid kit and prescription medications
- An extra pair of glasses
- A whistle (to call for help)
- A 3-day supply of bottled water (one gallon per family member; per day)
- A 3-day supply of non-perishable packaged or canned foods and a non-electric can opener and utensils (knives, forks, spoons)
- A pail with a tight cover
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Plastic garbage bags, ties and moist towelettes
- Soap and alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Plain chlorine bleach
- A list of family physicians and important family medical information
- Credit cards, cash and extra set of car keys
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members

Stay Informed.

Take the time to learn what disasters or emergencies occur in Washoe County. These events can range from those affecting only you and your family, like a home fire or medical emergency, to those affecting your entire community, like an earthquake or flood.

- Sign up for AlertID. Consider how local authorities will notify you during a disaster and how you will get information, whether through reverse-911 dialing, local radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio stations or channels.
- Know the difference between different weather alerts such as watches and warnings and what actions to take in each.
- Know what actions to take to protect yourself during disasters that may occur in areas where you travel or have moved recently. For example, if you travel to a place where earthquakes are common and you are not familiar with them, make sure you know what to do to protect yourself should one occur.
- When a major disaster occurs, your community can change in an instant. Loved ones may be hurt and emergency response is likely to be delayed. Make sure that at least one member of your household is trained in first aid and CPR and knows how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). This training is useful in many emergency situations.
- Share what you have learned with your family, household and neighbors and encourage them to be informed.

Free Emergency Preparation and Response Training

Washoe County residents who want to be better prepared for an emergency are invited to participate in free Community Emergency Response Team training offered by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Citizen Corps during the last two weekends in September.

Community Emergency Response Training is conducted by Citizen Corps staff and volunteers along with appropriate subject matter experts. Topics include disaster preparedness, emergency medical techniques, fire safety, search and rescue, disaster psychology, and terrorism awareness. This is a 26 hour training course that takes place over two consecutive weekends: Thursday, September 20th through Saturday, September 22nd and Thursday, September 27th through Saturday, September 29th.

The training is free and trainees are not required to become a Citizen Corps volunteer to participate. No special skills are required. Children 12-15 may participate with parent's supervision, teens 16-17 with parent's permission. To sign up for training, call (775) 325-6927 or (775) 325-6928, or email: drussell@washoecounty.us or bhambleton@washoecounty.us.



The Adventures of Ponyo the Cat Another Incredible Cat Homecoming Thanks to Proper Identification



Devon Hayzlett said her husband thought someone was pulling his leg when he received a message from Washoe County Regional Animal Services that their 2-year-old cat Ponyo had been picked up in Reno on Monday, August 27. The Hayzletts live in Dublin, California, just east of the San Francisco Bay and about a four hour drive from Reno. They had just seen Ponyo the night before and, because Ponyo is the kind of cat that likes to hide away for long periods, were not even aware she was missing, much less in another state.

"We all thought that someone had to be joking with us," Hayzlett said. "Then we double-checked the phone number to confirm it was Washoe County Animal Services and saw a photo of Ponyo as a 'Found Pet' on their website - we were shocked."

Regional Animal Services received a call from a security officer at Circus Circus in downtown Reno about 5:00 p.m. on August 27. They were concerned about the well-being of a cat spotted in the valet parking area. Animal Control Officer Kevin Osborne responded. Because Ponyo was microchipped and had an ID collar with a phone number he was easily able to contact the Hayzletts in California to let them know their cat had been found and was safe, 220 miles from home. The next morning Devon Hayzlett made the drive over the Sierra to pick up the family cat, still mystified as to how Ponyo made such a long journey in just a day. The most logical explanation is that Ponyo accidentally and unknowingly hitched a ride with some of the Hayzlett's neighbors and their friends who had gone on a drive to Lake Tahoe and Reno, including a stop at the Circus Circus.

"Without the microchip and ID, we never would have known where Ponyo ended up," Hayzlett said. "We are just so grateful to have her back." Washoe County Regional Animal Services believes that microchipping is your pet's best chance of finding home if it ever becomes lost.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office- Community Relations

911 E. Parr Boulevard
Reno Nevada 89512
P: 775.785.6228
F: 775.785.6244

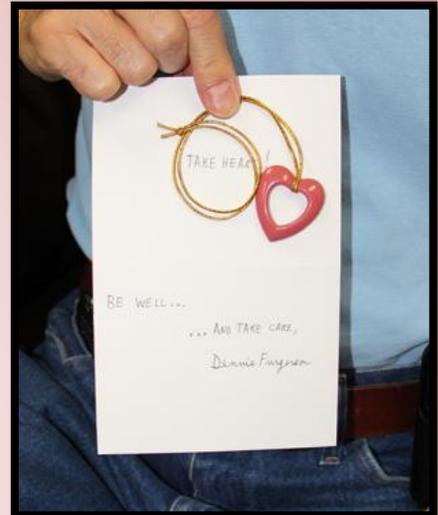
E-mail:
[sheriffcommunityrelations@
washoecounty.us](mailto:sheriffcommunityrelations@washoecounty.us)

Find us on the Web:
washoesheriff.com



*Dedicated Service in
Partnership with our
Community*

Victim Advocate Receives a Gift of the "Heart"



Artist Dennis Furgerson shares his artwork

Kasey LaFoon, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office victim advocate, has received a gift of the heart from local artist Dennis Furgerson.

For the last several months Furgerson has donated dozens of beautiful porcelain charm pendants to the SO to give to victims of domestic violence. Everyday life after experiencing domestic violence can be traumatizing. "I made these to give people a good feeling and maybe some hope or strength when they're going through whatever they're going through," said Furgerson.

He recently went up to the interview room for domestic violence victims and discovered a theme...hearts. He then went to work creating two canvases to hang in the room to "help them know I care about them." That's why he signs his name to every card he writes and includes the line "Take heart! Be well, and take care...."

"Joining Forces" Impaired Driving Awareness and Enforcement Campaign Results

"Joining Forces" is a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement program that promotes statewide enforcement in the areas of DUI, seat belt, and speed and pedestrian safety. Sheriff's Office patrol staff assigned to this campaign, which ran from 8/30/12 to 9/5/12, initiated 373 traffic stops and arrested three drivers for violation of the Nevada DUI laws. Additionally, there were 10 drug related arrests and three fugitive arrests. Ninety-one speeding citations, one reckless driving citation and 23 citations were issued for drivers' license related violations. Other notable violations observed were: 93 motor vehicle registration violations, 59 vehicle equipment violations, seven seat belt violations, 44 violations for failure to show proof of insurance, 12 distracted driving related violations, seven citations issued to at-fault pedestrian violations and 15 drivers failing to yield the right of way citations. All other miscellaneous citations and written warnings totaled 192. Citations and arrests totaled 560.

* The "Joining Forces" impaired driving awareness and enforcement campaign is made possible by grant funding received from the Nevada Department of Public Safety/Office of Traffic Safety.

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