



LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

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Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Facts:

Most natural disasters are the result of some force of nature such as tornadoes, wildfires, hurricanes, and floods.

Some natural disasters can be predicted, such as hurricanes and severe winter storms, while others, like tornadoes and earthquakes, happen with little to no warning.

Some disasters are the cause of human actions, intentional or unintentional. A disaster plan will help with safety, security, and comfort.

Although Valdosta is considered to be in a lower risk area for hurricanes, recently, we have been impacted by major ones like Hurricanes Andrea in 2013 and Irma in 2017.

As of a 2019 report, Lowndes

County has been impacted by 19 tornadoes since 1950.

Regardless of the type of disaster, there are things you can do to prepare.

Safety Tips

- Have an escape plan and know what to do when an evacuation occurs.
- Make sure that special provisions have been made for people with special needs.
- When told by officials, go immediately to a shelter as instructed or to the home of a friend or relative who lives out of the area.
- It is a good idea to have multiple evacuation routes pre-established in case of blocked or closed roads.
- During an emergency, family members may become displaced. Having an out-of-area contact is essential to helping coordinate displaced family members once the danger has subsided.
- Children need to know phone numbers and addresses along with their family's emergency plan. They should be quizzed regularly to ensure they know where to go and what to do when disaster strikes.
- Decide how to take care of pets. Pets are not allowed in places where food is served, so you will need to have a place to take your pets if you have to go to a shelter.

U.S. Fire Administration-USFA

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Emergency-Preparedness>

Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."

M	M	Whey
U	U	Way
S	S	Traffic

Answers to last month's wuzzles are enough to go around and you win some, you lose some.

Fire Safety Quiz

1. Avoid driving unless necessary during a disaster to cut down on the number of vehicles on the roadways.
 - A. True
 - B. False
2. After a disaster has occurred, you should _____.
 - A. Not enter damaged buildings until it is safe to do so
 - B. Stay clear of fallen powerlines
 - C. Save your phone calls for emergencies
 - D. All of the above

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. B. & 2. D.

Disasters teach us humility. ~ Anselm of Canterbury

Disasters can happen anywhere and at any time. By taking the time to create an emergency supplies kit, your family will be prepared in the event of a disaster. The kit also helps children feel more secure knowing it is there in case of an emergency.

The supplies can be kept in a plastic tub, small suitcase, trash can, backpack or other container. To learn what else you need in an emergency supplies kit, go to www.ready.gov.

Do you have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? If so, please contact Ms. Tangela Rowe at 229-333-1835 or you can send an email to:

valdostafire@valdostacity.com



Brian S. Boutwell, Fire Chief