



Secretary Tom Ridge, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**YOU'VE PROBABLY WONDERED,
"IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO PROTECT
OURSELVES FROM THE THREAT OF TERRORISM?"
HERE'S YOUR ANSWER.**

You do not have to feel helpless in the face of terrorist threats against the United States. You can take action and be prepared.

STEP ONE - MAKE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

All of us should be able to survive comfortably on our own for at least a three-day period. That's the amount of time you may need to remain in your home, until the danger from a biological, chemical or radiological attack has passed.

Obviously, you'll need a change of clothes, sleeping bags, food and water. A gallon of water per person per day should be enough. Canned and dried foods are easy to store and prepare.

Start now by gathering basic emergency supplies: a flashlight, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, prescription medicines and toilet articles. Duct tape and heavy-duty plastic garbage bags can be used to seal windows and doors.

STEP TWO - MAKE A FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Your family may not be together at home when an attack occurs. Make sure everyone knows how to

get in touch. It may be wise to have everyone call an out-of-state friend or relative.

Keep a list of emergency numbers near the phone. Select a room where everyone can gather. The best choice is an interior room above ground with few windows and doors.

Keep at least half a tank of gas in your car at all times in case you're told to evacuate during an emergency. If you do not have a car, plan what to do if you are asked to leave.

STEP THREE - BE INFORMED

Planning helps. If your family knows what to expect, all of you will be calmer in the aftermath of a terrorist event. For example, you should find out where to turn for instructions. Local authorities will broadcast information as quickly as possible concerning the nature of the emergency and what you should do next. Be sure to keep listening for updates.

What can you do right now? You can get more information and educate yourself and your family. For more details on emergency preparedness, visit our website at www.ready.gov. Or get a free brochure by calling **1-800-BE-READY**.

