



FS/NAAF GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

Outsmart the Darkness: Your Weekly Safety Spotlight



Emergency Preparedness

Emergencies from hurricanes and flooding to fires, active shooter, and HAZMAT demand a coordinated, practiced response. The Occupant Emergency Program (OEP) is the federal framework to safeguard life and property. Effective preparedness ensures a swift, coordinated response that protects lives and reduces damage.

Being Ready For An Emergency Is More Important Than The Response

Importance of Emergency Preparedness

- In 2023, the US experienced 75,104 adverse weather events resulting in 877 deaths and 3,857 injuries
- Over the past 5 years, weather-related fatalities have risen by 20% and injuries have surged 120%
- After Hurricane Michael, 45-50 deaths were reported in the immediate aftermath, however, mortality analysis attributed an additional 36 deaths in the months following due to chronic health conditions that worsened when the healthcare infrastructure collapsed.

Emergencies Impact Services and Infrastructure

- Nearly 25% of businesses and companies never re-open following a major disaster
- Roads, Healthcare, Utilities and Emergency Services are all impacted by major disasters and emergencies

Occupant Emergency Program (OEP)

OEP Essentials

- Required for all Federal Facilities
- Contains immediate response procedures to safeguard life and property
- Include evacuation, shelter-in-place, active shooter and HAZMAT procedures

4 Steps

- Organize Staff, Information Capabilities and Resources
- Address Emergency Planning Considerations
- Develop OEP
- Distribute, Implement, Evaluate and Maintain

Risk Assessment & Planning

Hazard Analysis

- Conduct regular hazard analysis of the workplace
- Develop and practice emergency action plans

Employee Training & Communication

- Provide annual emergency preparedness training
- Use multiple communication methods for alerts
- Assign emergency response roles to trained staff

Preparedness for Coastal Georgia Hazards

- Plan for hurricanes, tropical storms, and flooding
- Address risks from extreme heat and lightning
- Federal Installation active shooter threats
- Tornadoes occur with little to no warning
- Coordinate with local and installation emergency management agencies