

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM CHECKLIST

This manual and checklists that follow are only to be used after a disaster declaration by the Lemhi County Commissioners.

Evacuation Package

Door-to-Door Contact Checklist

- _____ 1. Identify yourself and briefly explain the nature of the emergency.
- _____ 2. Advise occupants to evacuate or to be prepared for evacuation. Tell them what the signal will be if evacuation becomes necessary.
- _____ 3. If time permits, have occupants complete Evacuee Information Form
If time does not permit, tell evacuees to complete the Form at the evacuation Center.
- _____ 4. Inquire if occupants have transportation or if anyone needs special assistance. Advise to take pets and prescription drugs.
- _____ 5. Instruct occupants on routes to use, precautions, and the location of the Evacuation Center.
- _____ 6. If no one answers the door, ask neighbors for information. Obtain approval for forced entry if necessary to aid children, bedridden, handicapped, or elderly.
- _____ 7. Complete Evacuation Refusal Form for persons refusing to evacuate. Log name and address of home where no one answers. Report these names and address to your Supervisor.
- _____ 8. Mark evacuated residences with long strip of ribbon from Evacuation Kit.
- _____ 9. Mark area with WARNING-AREA EVACUATED notices from the Evacuation Kit.
- _____ 10. Maintain log of residents and address contacted.

Public Address Contact Checklist - When Door-to-Door Contact is NOT Possible

- _____ 1. Incident Commander shall approve the message before used.
Content will vary with the circumstances. Keep it short and to the point.
- _____ 2. Select a broadcast spot for good coverage. Consider wind direction and PA carrying distance.
- _____ 3. Stop the vehicle and give a steady tone on the siren for 10 to 15 seconds.
Wait 10 to 15 seconds.
- _____ 4. Give the message TWICE. Use a slow command voice. Do not shout for amplification.
- _____ 5. Sample: "YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE".

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE.

THE _____ (County Sheriff) HAS ADVISED THAT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD
BE EVACUATED IMMEDIATELY, BECAUSE
OF EXTREME DANGER FROM _____
LOCK YOUR HOMES AND PROCEED ON _____
(Route and directions) TO _____ (Evacuation Center)
PLEASE EVACUATE NOW."

- _____ 6. Have the team patrol neighborhoods to maintain order and provide assistance to those with no transportation.
- _____ 7. Hand out Evacuee Information Forms as residents leave the area.
- _____ 8. Mark each dwelling, known to be evacuated, with a long piece (approx. 36') of reflective ribbon.
- _____ 9. Mark area with "WARNING AREA EVACUATED" notice from the Evacuation Kit.

Evacuation Contact Form

WARNING

This area may be evacuated

Because of:

By the order of the Lemhi County Sheriff **Date:**_____ **Time:**_____

Evacuation Center _____

Evacuee Information Form NO. _____

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER IN FAMILY: _____

WHEN EVACUATED, GO TO: _____

Even if you plan to stay elsewhere, please check in at the nearest evacuation center. If you do not plan to stay at the center please fill out the following information

We will be staying at (name/physical address)

City/State: _____

In the case of an actual evacuation, return this form to the nearest roadblock so we are assured of your safety. If you decide to pre-evacuate, please return this form to Lemhi County Sheriff's Office or call 208-756-4203 and provide the above information.

There are 3 stages in the evacuation process. Personnel from the Sheriffs Office, Salmon Search and Rescue, or Designee by Sheriffs Office will attempt to contact you and keep you informed as to the current stage of evacuation in your area.

End of Form

RESIDENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

_____ 1. Are you able to stay here safely for (appropriate time initially, the next three days).

_____ 2. What are your heating sources? (If this question applies)

List sources:_____

- Review “Heat & Light” sections as appropriate.
- Do you know what to do to help prevent freezing pipes?

_____ 3. Do you need help with any health issues?

- Special needs for medications, oxygen?
- Review “Hygiene & Waste” section as appropriate.

_____ 4. Do you have enough food and water?

- Review “Food & Water” sections as appropriate.

_____ 5. Is there anyone we can contact?

- to come stay with you (especially if living alone)
- work notification
- notify relatives

_____ 6. Can you help out any of your neighbors?

- room, food, water, baby-sitting, etc.

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Helpful Preparedness Checklist

I. Keeping Warm

At night, use extra sleeping insulation such as blankets, newspapers, sleeping bags, rugs, curtains, layered clothing, and have everyone sleep together. Wear a cap to bed. If you have heat, and your neighbor doesn't, invite them to shelter with you. Work with your community to ensure that nobody is left out in the cold.

_____ 1. Insulate one room in the house for a "shelter within the house":

- ✓ Pitch a tent in this room.

Tent alternative: Use your dining room table (extra leaves in). Place a mattress underneath it. Drape blankets, or rugs down the sides. Leave a gap near the bottom for fresh air. DO NOT use an open flame for heating inside a tent.

Extra blankets, rugs, curtains, mattresses, clothes or newspapers can be used for insulation (doorways, floors, walls, and windows).

Sleeping bags for sleeping.

_____ 2. Safety precautions: Bring the following to this room:

- ✓ Battery-operated smoke alarm (if available).
- ✓ Any fire extinguishers.
- ✓ A disaster supply kit (72-hour kit) in case of evacuation.
- ✓ Battery-operated radio to tune in on emergency broadcasts.

_____ 3. Insulate your body:

- ✓ Wear loose clothes, in layers.
- ✓ Keep clothes clean & dry.
- ✓ Wear a hat/cap indoors & outdoors.

_____ 4. Other heat sources:

Newspapers can be emergency insulation. Wrap them around legs, arms, torso, and tape over windows/ceilings, on the floor. Blankets, cloth, curtains, plastic, newspapers, and mattresses can be used to insulate windows, doors, walls, and floors. DO NOT seal the room so that no fresh air can get in. You must have ventilation.

Emergency heaters include propane, kerosene, candles, wood, "Canned Heat", buddy burners, and the burners of your gas stove (if the gas is on but the electricity is off). Place all open-flame heaters in front of a ventilation opening (this keeps exhaust fumes from spreading through the room). A window or door MUST be open at least 1" to provide sufficient fresh air. Position the heater so that it will not be knocked over.

If electric or gas utilities fail, don't try to heat the entire house. It is easier to heat one room, and it is easier to heat a room if you are bundled up warmly. Stay out of the wind as much as possible. Make sure your head, hands, and feet are protected. Wear a warm cap inside & outside the house.

WARNING: DO NOT use Coleman fuel stoves or Charcoal briquettes indoor!

WARNING: Place all open flame emergency heaters in front of a window or door opened at least one inch for ventilation.

WARNING: Place all open flame emergency heaters on a fireproof surface.

- The following must be attended to at all times, and **TURNED OFF** before sleeping.

- Propane camp stoves
- Candles
- Canned heat (sterno, etc)
- “buddy burners” – wax-filled cardboard in a can
- burners on a gas stove

- The following may be left on while sleeping if properly used/installed.

- Kerosene heaters
- Wood stove
- Fireplace

II Lighting

If using candles, kerosene, or propane lanterns, take appropriate fire safety precautions. DO NOT go to sleep with an open flame light burning. Store fuels like propane and kerosene safely outside of the house or apartment.

- _____ 1. Use candles, flashlights and lanterns
- _____ 2. Put the light source in front of a mirror to increase illumination.

III. Minimizing Frozen Plumbing

- _____ 1. Turn on faucets and collect any water, open cupboard doors under sinks.
- _____ 2. Open any other drain valves and collect water.
- _____ 3. Turn off and drain the hot water tank: To tap the water heater, close the cold water inlet pipe (on top of the heater). Open a hot water tap and let the water run until it stops. Attach a hose to the drain connection in the base of the heater, open the valve and drain into a container to be saved for later use. Turn off the water heater when you are going to drain it. If left on and empty, it will burn up the heating system in the tank. Waterbed water is not safe to drink due to the toxic anti-algae treatments, but it is a great source for water for flushing toilets
- _____ 5. Pour car windshield washer anti-freeze in the sinks and stool to protect the gooseneck traps and prevent odor from entering the house.
- _____ 6. Washing machine: Pour a quart of car windshield washer anti-freeze in washing machine and set the button to pump it out just a second. This gets it through the tubes and pump

underneath.

7. Move stored water to the warmest room. If not practical, make sure containers have enough room for expansion if the water freezes.

IV. WATER

If the water system has been disrupted, assume the water is impure unless announced otherwise. If you have a well and your property has been flooded your well may be contaminated. Many life-threatening diseases and parasites can be spread by impure water. Do not take chances with water; always boil or otherwise purify any water suspected of impurities. Here are some places to look for water:

During rain storms water can be collected off the roof of your house. When it rains let the water run down your gutters for 10 or 15 minutes then begin collecting the runoff in clean buckets. If the roof is in bad repair, cover it with tarps or plastic. Rainwater is very pure, but if the roof or gutters are in bad condition or dirty, purify the water before drinking.

Streams, rivers, lakes. All surface water must be purified before drinking. Just because animals and birds may drink it doesn't make it safe for humans. Water-borne diseases and parasites are grave threats from such water, even if it looks sparkling clean and pure. Fresh, clean, just-fallen snow can be melted and used without further purification. Older snow must be purified. To collect water from a river dig a hole at least 3 feet deep below the level of the water, about 12 feet from the river's edge. You may need to shore up the sides of this hole to keep it from collapsing. Water will seep into this hole from the river, and will be relatively clean water, but it must be purified before using.

EMERGENCY PURIFICATION OF WATER:

Water to be purified by these methods should be as clear as possible. If the water is cloudy or dirty because of suspended solids, let it sit in buckets for a day or so to allow the solid materials to settle to the bottom. Siphon clear water from the center and middle of the bucket, leaving the solids and the water just above them in the bottom. Put this water through several layers of coffee filters or clean cloth. Then treat it by one of these methods. Make purified water taste better by adding a bit of lemon juice or a powdered drink mix; also, pouring back and forth between two clean container helps.

Boil for 10 minutes. "Boiled" means a rolling boil, not simmering. At higher altitudes, increase the boiling time to 15 minutes. To improve the taste, add a pinch of salt to each quart of boiled water and pour it back and forth between two containers. To treat with chlorine use plain old-fashioned chlorine bleach. The label says "sodium hypochlorite at 5.25%", Clorox bleach is the strength, don't use scented or colored bleach. Add 16 drops to each gallon of water. Mix thoroughly and let it stand for 30 minutes. It should have a slight chlorine odor. If it doesn't, repeat the procedure. If you are using water purification tablets; follow the directions of the label. Bleach kills micro-organisms, if there are chemical pollutants in the water, they will remain. To distill water, put 3 tuna cans on the bottom of a large pot and place a smaller pot on top of the tuna cans. Put unpurified water in the larger pot (make sure the smaller pot does not float off of the tuna cans). Turn the lid upside down and place it on the large pot. Bring the pot to a boil. The vapor will condense on the under side of the upside-down lid and flow down the lid to drip into the smaller pot. To hasten the process, you can put a bit of cool water in the lid, but make sure the cool water can not drip through the lid into the water below.

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Hygiene, Trash, Sewage Disposal

Hygiene

This is the first line of defense against the spread of disease and despair. If electricity is not available, household duties require the assistance of everyone. Persons with special needs (such as families with young children or elderly) may need the help of neighbors. Attacking messes when they are “small” keeps them from becoming big problems.

_____ 1. Keeping eating utensils and work surfaces clean

WARNING: DO NOT add any product with ammonia to a bleach solution.

- If water is scarce, scrub dishes with brushes, or clean sand or newspaper to remove food particles & grease, and then wash in hot soapy water.

- Use unscented household bleach for disinfecting solutions.
- For dishes and hard, non-porous surfaces, use 1 tablespoon liquid bleach in 1 gallon of water. Soak small items for 5 minutes. Surfaces such as floors or counters should be wet liberally and kept wet for 2 minutes.
- For general disinfecting (floors, counters, etc.), use $\frac{3}{4}$ cup liquid bleach in 1 gallon of water. Soak small items for 5 minutes. Surfaces such as floors or counters should be wet liberally and kept wet for 2 minutes.

_____ 2. Personal hygiene:

- Wash hands regularly, especially after using the toilet. The general disinfecting bleach solution is a good hand rinse.
- Bathing: Using a bucket or tote instead of the tub. For warm Water, put the water in a black plastic bucket or black-painted pop bottles. Set these in the sun for two hours. When you're done bathing, save any dirty or soapy water to pour in the toilet for flushing.
- Cornmeal or cornstarch can be used as dry shampoos. Sprinkle liberally in the hair, and then brush vigorously.
- Use only boiled or purified water for brushing your teeth or cleaning contact lenses.
- Use rubber or plastic tubs or buckets and a household plunger to wash clothes without electricity. Put water, detergent, and Clothes in the buckets. Cut a hole in the lid for the plunger handle (the agitator). Soak the clothes. Insert the plunger

handle through the lid, put the lid on the bucket and agitate.

- Use a tub of clear water to rinse the clothes. Some clothes may require hand scrubbing.
- Use the wringer of a mop bucket to remove water. If you don't have a mop bucket, wring clothes by hand.
- Air dry by hanging on clothes lines or hangers. In winter, you can air dry outside, but you may have to crack ice to remove it from the clothes. (Wear gloves when hanging clothes in winter.)

TRASH

If normal services are interrupted, trash is a serious urban health danger. If you don't take care of it, the mice and flies will, and you won't like that. The primary rule is: Be careful what you throw away and how you throw it away. People can respond creatively to disruptions of normal supplies and services. When you begin to think of your trash as less of a disposal problem and more of a useful resource, you are getting to the point.

_____ 1. Separate trash and throw less stuff away.

- Keep disposable diapers in a separate bag.
- Keep toxic materials such as spray cans separate

_____ 2. Reuse bottles and cans.

_____ 3. Compost wet trash EXCEPT meats and fats. Compost the wet trash. Mix shredded dry materials (such as newspapers, leaves or sawdust), wet and green trash (lawn clippings, kitchen/garden scraps) with dirt. Keep this compost heap covered with dry material, and slightly damp. If it starts to stink, you probably need to add more dry material or dirt. As the compost rots, it generates heat. You can capture some of this heat as hot water by running a garden hose through the compost heap.

_____ 4. DO NOT burn trash unless approved by local officials.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The breakdown of a city's sewage system is an immediate threat of the spread of disease. Improper disposal of human wastes causes epidemic diseases that kill people. Immediate intervention is required. Do not use public spaces such as parks or lawns for human waste disposal on the surface of the ground. Do not bury human waste in snow.

Your health and wellness in disaster situations depends a lot on your community's ability to properly meet the challenges of public health such as hygiene, trash, and sewage disposal.

_____ 1. If the sewer works but there is no water, use water that has been used for washing to flush toilets.

_____ 2. Chemical toilets (port-a-potties, RV toilets) may provide a temporary solution. Emptying is uncertain, depending on service availability.

_____ 3. Emergency indoor toilet.

- Put a toilet seat on a rigid plastic bucket
- Put sawdust, dry leaves and dirt in the bottom of bucket
- After each use, add more of this material so waste is covered
- If toilet paper is not available, use newspaper or phone book paper
- When full, dispose of waste in one of two ways:

1) Dig a hole in the ground about six feet deep and 2 or 3 feet across. Empty into the hole, and cover completely with dirt. Cover the hole with a board weighted down with bricks or rocks. When this has been filled to within 2 feet of the surface, fill it the rest of the way with dirt. Disposal holes must be at least 8 yards away from a source of water such as a well, pond, or stream.

2) Empty into a compost heap, and cover completely with natural materials. (This compost should be aged for at least one year before using, and it must be monitored to ensure that it heats up properly so the disease pathogens are killed).

- After emptying bucket, rinse with the bleach disinfecting solution.

The primary problem with an outdoor pit latrines are flies/mosquitoes, odors, and the spread of disease, none of which are minor nuisances.

Manage these by:

- Covering the pit with a slab of concrete or plywood; this slab must fit tightly to the pit walls so that there are no gaps or holes between the latrine cover and the edges of the pit.
- Installing a capped and screened vent pipe that rises at least 18 inches above the roof of the latrine.
- Using a tight fitting seat cover inside the latrine. Paint the vent pipe black and place on the sunny side of the latrine. This heats the air inside the pipe, causing it to rise and draw air out of the pit, minimizing odor.

If toilet paper is not available, many common papers can substitute, such as newspaper or phone book paper. Some cultures use water for cleansing.

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Helpful Suggestions

MAKE A BUDDY BURNER

Materials needed: Plain corrugated cardboard (no bright in printing, no wax or plastic coating), flat tuna/pet food cans, or flat pineapple cans and lids, #10 can (the large institutional size), candle wax or paraffin. Tools: punch-type can opener, tin snips.

1. Cut the cardboard in strips whose width is the height of the can, across the corrugations, so the holes show. Roll the strips until the cardboard roll fits snugly into the can.
2. Melt the wax. Use a double boiler, because if the wax gets too hot, it can burst into flame. You can improve a double boiler by putting water in a large pan, and then setting a smaller pan into the water. Each tuna can will take about 4 ounces of wax.
3. When the wax is melted, slowly pour it into the buddy burner so that it runs down into the holes and saturates the corrugated cardboard and fills the can to the rim. You can put a small piece of cardboard sticking up or a candle wick in the middle to help start it, but this isn't required. Let it cool and harden. To light it, set it on a brick or concrete block. Put a lighted match in the middle of the can or light the wick. The flame will spread across the top of the can.

If using indoors, place in front of a door or window open at least 1 inch. Set the burner on a brick or concrete block. It produces a lot of heat and the flame can be 6 to 8 inches high. This doesn't mean it is unsafe; it does mean you can't play around with it or treat it casually or without thinking about what you are doing. BE CAREFUL. Pay attention to details and use common sense whenever handling open flame. DON'T set it on the floor, as someone may kick it over. DON'T let the kids play with it (toasting marshmallows is OK).

To use for cooking: Cut out the end of the #10 can. Use the tin snips to cut a 3" high and 4" wide "door" on one side of the can at the open end. Leave the top of the door uncut. Bend this flap of metal up so the door is "open". Take the punch-type can opener, and make 3 or 4 holes on the other side of the can at the top (this is your chimney). Light the tuna can, place the #10 can over the Buddy Burner, and cook on top of the can. This "can stove" could be adapted to fuels like twigs, charcoal or charcoal briquettes, but these SHOULD NOT be used indoors. Charcoal briquettes should never be used indoors under any circumstances. The fumes can kill you.

To regulate the flame, use the can lid as a damper. Place it over all of the flame to extinguish the fire, or cover it partially to regulate the amount of flame. You can also use a piece of aluminum foil (several layers folded), that is larger than the tuna can. Handle the damper with a pot holder, or a pair of pliers, or punch a couple of holes in the edges of the lid and use some wire to make a handle. To refill the buddy burner, place small amounts of wax on the cardboard while the burner is operating. As long as it has wax, it will burn.

Baking: Using tuna cans as little pans, anything you would bake in a regular oven can be baked on top of the #10 can stove. Simply place another #10 can over your baking pan and it's an oven!

Emergency heat: Don't put the #10 can over the buddy burner, as it makes more smoke with the #10 can than without. Light the buddy burner, let it warm up a room. As soon as the room is warm, extinguish the buddy burner.

EMERGENCY COOKING

SAFETY NOTES: Emergency cooking will involve an open flame. You must have proper ventilation, a window or door open 1 inch will provide sufficient fresh air if the open flame cooking device is placed in front of (or close to) the opening. This keeps exhaust fumes from spreading through the room. **DO NOT** leave a propane camp stove or the burners on a natural gas stove burning while you sleep. **DO NOT** use charcoal briquettes inside for cooking—doing this has killed people. **DO NOT** use wood inside a house for cooking unless you have a fireplace or properly installed wood stove. If you need a campfire, build it in a safe place outside. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, lethargy, blurry vision, room feels “stuffy”, ringing in the ears. If symptoms occur, get fresh air into the room immediately or move everybody out fast. Pregnant women and unborn babies are particularly at risk. Seek medical attention! A box of baking soda is a good emergency fire extinguisher; sugar is not.

- Wood stoves, fireplaces, Dutch ovens, charcoal briquettes, gas grills, camp stoves. Use bricks to make a stand for a pot or to hold a grill in an open fireplace. Dutch ovens can be cooked in fires outside in the yard or in the fireplace. Charcoal briquettes can be used with cast iron skillets, Dutch ovens, and other pots and pans, but such cooking must be done outside. Small 1 to 3 burner propane camp stoves can be used indoors (with adequate ventilation), liquid Coleman/white gas fuel stoves and gas grills must be used outdoors. Most kerosene heaters get hot enough on top to cook food.

- Baking on top of a camp stove. (1) Place a cast iron skillet or cookie sheet on top of the burner(s). (2) Put something on top of this to raise the cooking pan up and allow air to circulate underneath. This could be a low cake pan, or empty tuna cans, or the trivet from your gas range. (3) Put the food to be baked in a covered pan on top of the “risers”. (4) Make a tent from several layers of foil over the cake pan, so that air can circulate beneath it, and put a small vent hole in the top of the aluminum foil. Large cans or pot lids also work. Keep an eye on the food as it is baking. You may have to flip biscuits so that they brown on top.

- Chafing Dish cooking. Chafing dishes come in many different sizes and use small cans of jelled fuel for heat, some use candles or denatured alcohol burners. A fondue pot is a type of chafing dish. The small stand supporting the chafing dish can be used with a skillet or omelet pan, or a pot for soup or stew. It takes up to a half hour to warm a can of food with a candle. Buddy burners can also be used with chafing dishes. Buddy burners and candles can be used with chafing dishes.

- Solar cookers. Solar cookers are made with cardboard boxes, aluminum foil, duct tape, and glass. Such ovens can get to 350 degrees, hot enough to bake meats and casseroles. A solar cooker works by reflecting light onto a dark pot through a clear transparent cover such as glass or an oven baking bag, and insulating the pot so that the heat does not radiate out but rather cooks the food. Crock-pot recipes will generally work in a solar cooker. Work with materials you have at hand to create an insulated container with a clear top the sun can be reflected upon.

- Non-electric crock pot. Use a box or bucket big enough to pack 4 inches of insulating material on all sides, top and bottom. Line the inside with aluminum foil, and put insulating material on the bottom (such as newspapers, cloth, sawdust, and hay). Bring the food to a boil, cover the pot (3-6 quarts) and put it in the container. Pack the top and the spaces between the pot and the sides of the box or bucket with insulating material, and put the lid on. Good for up to 4 hours cooking.

- Remember: Food cooks faster covered pots. Be thrifty with scarce fuels, combine methods such as using a camp stove to bring beans to a boil, and then the non-electric crock pot to finish the job.

FOOD SAFETY IN A DISASTER

Cold foods must be kept cold (below 45 degrees F.) to prevent spoilage. If the power goes off, open your refrigerator and freezer as little as possible. Wrap them in blankets or newspapers, or stack bags of clothes or mattresses against the walls and on the tops. Shield them from direct sunlight, and don't heat the rooms they are in. Eat the items in the refrigerator first, the same day the power goes off. If you are frugal in opening the freezer the food inside will stay below 45 degrees for 3-5 days. Be careful about storing prepared foods without refrigeration. If it is cold winter, put food in an insulated box (such as an ice chest) in an unheated room or porch. Pack it with snow or ice. Put a thermometer in the room and check it several times a day to make sure it is staying below 45 degrees. Protect the cold box from sunlight. When cooking, estimate food portions carefully, as you may not be able to refrigerate the leftovers. Spoiled foods may not have an offensive odor, so while the presence of a bad odor is a sure indicator of spoilage, its absence may not be an assurance of safety. Don't take chances with food safety! If in doubt, throw it out.

Creamed foods, soft cheeses (cream cheese, spreads, and cottage cheese), gravy, mayonnaise, salad dressings, pork, and poultry spoil quickly. Dispose of them if the refrigerator has been without power for 12 hours. Seafood, chopped meat, and poultry sandwich fillings are not safe after 4 hours without refrigeration. Hard cheeses will be fine at room temperature for several days. To preserve for longer periods: Dip the cheese into a salt solution (salty enough that an egg floats) and place on a rack to dry overnight. On the 2nd day, rub with salt and leave on the rack. Do this again a 3rd day. By this time a rind should be developing. If it feels dry and smooth, continue to the waxing; if not, rub with salt and let dry another day. Waxing: Apply 3 or 4 coats of wax (either with a brush, or by dipping into melted wax, melt the wax in a double boiler, which is a pot of water with a smaller pot inside), let the wax dry between each coat. Wrap with cheese cloth, and continue the process of drip drying until several layers later the cheese is completely covered with a smooth wax exterior. It will continue to age inside, but remain good. If you do find mold on hard cheese, simply scrape or cut off and use the rest of the cheese.

SPECIAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN:

Children are greatly affected by disasters; they will need extra realistic reassurances, but don't promise what you can not deliver. Expect them to be afraid: Four common fears are death, darkness, animals, and abandonment. Refusing to discuss such fears with children will only intensify their concerns; encourage them to talk about their feelings or otherwise express them through activities such as play acting or painting. Their feelings won't go away if adults refuse to talk about them, if repressed; eventually they will come out, usually in a negative way. Pretending that problems don't exist only makes them worse. Physical reactions like nightmares, vomiting, headaches, or emotional reactions like refusing to eat, getting upset easily, feeling guilty or neglected, are very common reactions to severe stress. Children may regress to earlier behaviors like bed wetting or wanting a special toy. When you talk with your children, listen to how they say what they say. Watch them at play with other children, and with their toys. Repeat information and reassurances many times; answer their questions as much as you can. Hold your child, provide comfort (hugging or a hand on their shoulder is very important for children during stress). Spend extra time with them before going to bed. Don't hesitate to seek help from friends, family, schools, religious organizations, or support groups. Local Disaster Services will also be obtaining stress counseling for disaster victims, including children. Caution: the stress reactions of your children will be a source of stress for you. Don't take your stress out on your children.

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