

SAFETY GIFT GIVING AND PRACTICE

Delaware County experienced an unusual event for this area with the October 31st tornado. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, after one tornado in Marion IL, 50% of the injuries were suffered during rescue attempts, clean up and other post - tornado activities.

The holiday season can be a time to focus on being prepared for emergencies and the aftermath with non-traditional safety gifts and activities. The gifts can for families or friends and the activities can be completed during family time together.

Gift giving can include:

- First aid kits for home, garage, and vehicles
- Fire extinguishers for home, garages, vehicles
- Emergency escape ladders for homes
- Emergency escape tools for cars
- Roadside trouble kits for cars
- Personal emergency bag to stock with items needed for evacuation
- Safety whistles
- Reflective gear - for walking, biking and to carry in a car

Family activities that can be fun and educational

- Sign up for Hands Only CPR, Stop the Bleed, and First Aid courses - take friends
- Scavenger hunts at home to find battery powered items and replace batteries - emergency lights, detectors - mark item storage location on a floor plan
- Develop a home emergency and evacuation plan - use colors and stickers for routes and meeting locations
- Practice calling 911 with younger children and elderly parents - create different scenarios
- Inventory and organize tools that can help in emergencies - give them a "name" and their own marked location.

These may not be the traditional holiday gifts or activities but the potential of saving a life with these gifts or activities truly embodies the spirit of the upcoming holiday season.

Wishing All a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!