Dear Community Members,

As Chief of Police and the emergency manager for the Town of Springdale, one of my responsibilities is helping our community prepare for unexpected events. Emergencies can happen at any time, and while the Town will always do its part, preparedness begins at home. By taking proactive steps, we can make our families and neighborhoods safer and more resilient.

To support your efforts, I've compiled a comprehensive guide with practical advice on a variety of important topics, from creating emergency plans to building mental resilience and staying informed during an emergency.

The attached document includes actionable tips on the following:

- Designing a Family Emergency Game Plan: Strategies for evacuation planning, assigning responsibilities, and practicing preparedness.
- Assembling a 72-Hour Survival Kit: A checklist of essential items to sustain your family for three days or more.
- Maintaining Hygiene and Sanitation: Tips for staying healthy during emergencies when resources are limited.
- Preparing for Natural Disasters: Guidance for mitigating risks from floods, earthquakes, and wildfires.
- Creating Defensible Space: Steps to protect your property from wildfires by clearing flammable materials and creating buffer zones.
- Building a Community Support Network: The importance of neighborly connections and mutual aid during crises.
- Staying Connected Without Technology: Backup communication methods to ensure your family remains in contact.
- Fostering Mental Resilience: Techniques for managing stress and maintaining emotional well-being during challenging times.

I encourage you to review the guide and take the necessary steps to prepare your household. While the Town provides support and resources during emergencies, it's ultimately up to each of us to ensure we're ready to face challenges. Together, by working as a community, we can build a safer, stronger Springdale.

Thank you for taking the time to prepare and for your commitment to our shared safety.

Sincerely,

GAREN A. BRECKE
Chief of Police
Springdale Police Department
118 Lion Blvd / PO Box 187,
Springdale, UT 84767
435-772-9096
www.springdaletown.com

Designing Your Family's Emergency Game Plan
A well-thought-out emergency plan is your family's foundation for staying safe during unexpected events. Start by identifying potential risks in your area—whether it's natural disasters like floods or earthquakes. Establish clear steps for evacuation and create meeting points where family members can regroup if separated. Assign roles for each family member, such as handling emergency supplies, keeping pets safe, or shutting off utilities. Make sure everyone understands their responsibilities and practice your plan regularly. Over time, this plan builds confidence, providing peace of mind that your family is ready to respond calmly in a crisis.

Your 72-Hour Survival Kit Checklist
A 72-hour survival kit is more than just a collection of items; it's a lifeline if outside help is delayed. Ensure your kit contains essential supplies to sustain your family for three days or more. Include water—one gallon per person per day—and non-perishable food like canned goods, energy bars, and dried fruit. Add a first aid kit with bandages, antiseptics, and any necessary prescription medications. Don't forget tools like flashlights, extra batteries, and multipurpose tools. For families with young children or pets, include items like diapers, formula, or pet food. Store your kit in an easily accessible, waterproof container and update it regularly, especially food and medicine.

Staying Healthy in Emergencies: Hygiene and Sanitation Tips
During emergencies, maintaining proper hygiene can prevent the spread of illness and keep your family safe. Stock up on hygiene essentials such as soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and face masks. If water is limited, keep hand sanitizers handy and use moist towelettes for cleaning. For waste disposal, have alternatives like portable toilets or waste bags, especially if plumbing may not be functioning. Teach family members proper handwashing techniques and encourage frequent hand hygiene. These simple yet essential practices can help maintain well-being even when supplies are limited.

Flood-Ready: Protecting Your Home and Family
Flooding can happen quickly, often with little warning. Preparing your home in advance can minimize damage and help keep everyone safe. Elevate electrical appliances and important documents above potential flood levels. Clear gutters, drains, and low areas around your property regularly to prevent water buildup. If you live in a flood-prone area, consider flood insurance for financial protection. During a flood, avoid wading or driving through moving water, which can be hazardous. Have a plan to evacuate early if authorities issue warnings. With these proactive steps, your home will be more resilient in the face of rising waters.

Earthquake Survival Basics
An earthquake can strike without warning, so it's essential to be ready to act swiftly. When the shaking starts, remember to Drop to your hands and knees, take cover under sturdy furniture, and hold on until the shaking stops. Afterward, assess your surroundings for hazards like broken glass or damaged structures. Secure heavy furniture and objects to prevent injury during tremors. Keep an emergency kit stocked with essential supplies, including water, food, and flashlights. Familiarize yourself with where utility shutoff points are, so you can respond safely if needed. By knowing how to respond to an earthquake, you'll protect yourself and your family in a moment of crisis.

Wildfire Safety: Creating Defensible Spaces
Wildfires can spread quickly, so taking steps to protect your home is crucial. Begin by clearing flammable materials like dead leaves, branches, and overhanging tree limbs around your property. Use fire-resistant materials in landscaping and avoid placing woodpiles close to your home. Create defensible spaces by trimming trees and shrubs to create separation between vegetation and structures. If wildfires are a threat, have evacuation routes and emergency contacts prepared. Keep an emergency kit ready to grab quickly, with supplies like water, non-perishable food, and first aid. Even small precautions can significantly reduce the risk of fire damage to your home.

Know Your Neighbors: Building a Support Network
In times of crisis, your neighbors can become a vital part of your preparedness plan. Build a network with those around you by getting to know each other, sharing contact information, and discussing emergency plans. Offer to help with resources like tools, supplies, or transportation if someone needs it. Organize neighborhood drills or emergency meetings to ensure everyone understands their role in case of an emergency. In rural or remote areas, these relationships are especially important for mutual support. By building a strong community network, you create a more resilient neighborhood where everyone is prepared together.

Volunteering for Preparedness
Getting involved in your community's preparedness efforts is a meaningful way to give back while building valuable skills. Whether it's volunteering with local disaster response teams, organizing emergency drills, or offering first aid training, your efforts help strengthen the community. Volunteering also connects you with others who share a commitment to being ready for emergencies. These experiences not only provide you with hands-on knowledge but also allow you to make a difference when needed most. By supporting your community's readiness, you create a safer environment where everyone benefits.

Staying Connected When Technology Fails
In emergencies, technology can sometimes let us down when we need it most. To stay connected, consider alternative methods, like two-way radios or satellite phones, especially in rural areas where service may be spotty. Have a family contact list with important phone numbers and addresses printed out in case cell phones aren't working. Create a communication plan that includes multiple ways to reach loved ones, such as designated meeting spots if phone lines are down. By preparing ahead, you can feel more confident that you'll be able to reach your family no matter what happens.

Creating a Family Contact List
An up-to-date family contact list is an essential tool for staying connected during emergencies. This list should include phone numbers for local and out-of-town contacts, medical information, and addresses. Distribute copies of this list to each family member and keep one in your emergency kit. It's also a good idea to store a digital version of the list in case the paper version gets lost. Regularly update the list with any changes in contact details or medical needs. Having this list prepared helps reduce stress, ensuring everyone knows who to contact if something unexpected occurs.

Mental Resilience in Disasters
Mental resilience helps you stay calm and focused during difficult situations. Practice stress-reducing techniques, like deep breathing or meditation, to help manage anxiety. Open communication within your family is crucial—allowing everyone to voice their concerns and fears can ease anxiety and foster connection. Be aware of signs of stress in yourself and others, and don't hesitate to seek support if needed. Preparing emotionally for challenges can empower you to handle emergencies calmly and effectively. Resilience is about building confidence and readiness, knowing that your family is strong and prepared together.

SPRINGDALE
Utah

Defensible Space: Protecting Your Home from Wildfires

Wildfires are a natural part of the Utah landscape, but creating defensible space around your home can significantly reduce your risk of damage. According to the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, defensible space is the buffer you create between your home and the surrounding vegetation. This space reduces the risk of wildfire spreading to your home while providing firefighters room to work effectively.

The Three Zones of Defensible Space:

1. Immediate Zone (0–5 Feet)
   This area is closest to your home and requires the most attention. Keep it clear of anything that could ignite, such as dry leaves, firewood, or mulch. Use non-combustible materials like gravel, stone, or pavers for landscaping. Consider replacing flammable building materials near the ground with fire-resistant options.
2. Intermediate Zone (5–30 Feet)
   In this zone, focus on reducing the amount of vegetation and creating breaks in fuel continuity. Trim tree branches to keep them at least 6–10 feet off the ground. Space trees so that their canopies are at least 10 feet apart and remove shrubs under trees to prevent fire from climbing. Regularly mow grass and clear away dead vegetation.
3. Extended Zone (30–100 Feet)
   This area helps slow the spread of wildfires by reducing fuel sources. Remove dead trees, brush, and fallen branches. Thin out dense vegetation, and if possible, create fuel breaks like dirt paths or rock gardens.

Additional Tips for Established Homes

- Hardening Your Home: Fireproof your property by installing mesh screens on vents, using non-combustible siding and roofing materials, and keeping decks clear of debris.
- Regular Maintenance: Make defensible space a routine. Inspect your property seasonally to remove new hazards.
- Collaborate with Neighbors: If your property is adjacent to others, work together to create defensible space that spans boundaries for greater protection.

By implementing these measures, you can protect your home and increase your family's resilience to wildfire threats. Defensible space isn't just about safety; it's about peace of mind, knowing you've done your part to prepare.
For more details and guidance, please reference the full Prepare for Wildfire document.

Springdale Emergency Preparedness: More to Come

Springdale is taking steps to help our community become more informed, prepared, and proactive in the face of potential emergencies. By working together with local agencies and experts, we aim to provide resources, tools, and guidance that empower residents to confidently handle the unexpected.

Stay tuned as we continue to shape this effort in creating a more prepared Springdale!

Local Resources To Increase Your Emergency Preparedness

Southwest Utah Public Health Department:

Emergency Preparedness: https://swuhealth.gov/prepare/

Southwest Utah Public Health Foundation **Emergency Preparedness** Winter 2025 Edition: https://issuu.com/swuhealth/docs/_winter_2025

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands:

Home Owner Education: https://ffsl.utah.gov/fire/wildfire-community-preparedness/homeowner-education/

Utah Wildfire Information: https://utah-fire-info-utahdnr.hub.arcgis.com/

Defensible Space Tips: https://ffsl.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/PrepareForWildfire2008.pdf

(FEMA):

Receive real-time weather alerts, locate emergency shelters in your area, prepare for common hazards and more with the FEMA App: https://www.fema.gov/about/news-multimedia/mobile-products

Phone Numbers:

Emergency: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Dispatch: (435) 634-5730

Search and Rescue: (435) 656-6533

Springdale Police Department: (435) 772-9096

Hurricane Valley Fire Special Service District: (435) 635-9562

For more contact information, please visit: https://news.washeriff.net/contact-us/contact-information/

Reverse 911 Citizen Alert System

Washington County Citizen Alert

The Washington County Citizen Alert system is a notification service that allows you to receive emergency alerts. You can subscribe to receive notifications based on your location by entering your contact information. The information you provide is protected and will not be used for any other purpose.

How It Works

When notifications are issued about a potential safety hazard or concern, you will receive a message on the voice or text communication methods that you have registered. If requested for the notification, you can confirm that you have received the message and you will not be contacted by any subsequent methods regarding that particular notification. If you do not confirm, the system will continue to attempt to reach you at all of the contact paths that you have registered.

Sign up for Notifications

Create an account and add your contact and location information into the Mass Notification system. All information you provide will be kept strictly confidential.

Stop Receiving Notifications

You can stop receiving at any time by removing your contact information from your profile.

To sign up for emergency alerts

There are many ways to sign up. Scan the QR Code above, visit 911register.com, or visit our website at https://www.springdaletown.com/499/Police-Department. Individuals with disabilities who need assistance can register by calling Washington County Citizen Alert at 435-627-4914.

Emergency and Non-emergency Communication Channels

There are several methods to receive alerts and information during emergencies and even under more mundane conditions. These methods include the county-wide reverse 911 system, the Town website alerts, community email blasts, and social media. The reverse 911 system provides the most current and immediate information during an emergency. The other methods are updated regularly based on their purpose and content but are not routinely updated during an emergency.

We encourage you to make sure you are set up to receive information from all these communication channels. For each of these channels to be successful, the person wishing to receive information has to do something: sign up, select, request, or follow. The Town provides a significant amount of information, and we want to help you put yourself in a position to receive it.

Reverse911

Washington County utilizes a Citizen Alert System that provides reverse 911 emergency alerts along with other important community messages. These messages are primarily life safety communications such as missing persons, evacuations, and critical information during disasters.

Cell phones are becoming the primary source of communication in many households. While Century Link landline phone accounts are routinely imported into the system, cell numbers are not and need to be registered with the system for alerts.

Signing up for these important notifications can be done at www.911register.com or on the Police Department page of the Town website. Please see the attached flyer from the Police Department for more information.

The system provides notifications to you based on the address registered to the phone number, not the location of the cell phone. Emergency responders on scene during an incident determine what areas need to be notified during an emergency.

Once registered, you will receive time-sensitive information using whatever method you specify – home, cell, or business phone, email, text message, hearing impaired receiving devices, or other options.

Town Website

The Town's website includes an alert system that is used to notify residents and businesses of issues affecting the community, including interruptions to Town utilities, road closures or changes to traffic patterns due to construction activities, and other similar events.

Community members may sign up for "Notify Me" alerts on the Town's website and select to receive notifications via email or text message on a variety of subjects, including public meeting agendas, community alerts, and news flash messages.

Please see the graphic on the following page on how to sign up on Notify Me.

Town Email List

The Town regularly sends emails to the community regarding public meetings, community events, and other information related to the community or Town business via our general email list maintained by the Clerk's office. You may request to be added to this email list by contacting either Aren or Robin at the Town office.

Social Media

The Town staff maintains pages and accounts on several social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

Facebook:

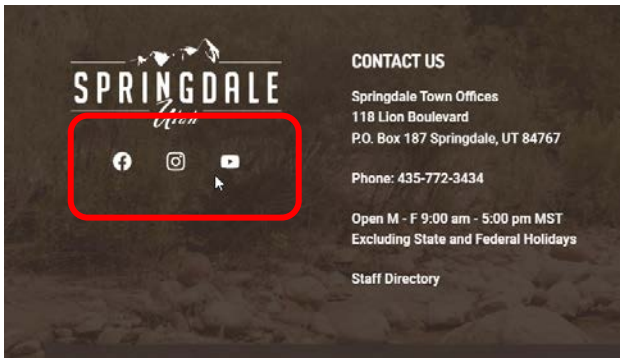
Town of Springdale

Springdale Police Department

Canyon Community Center

Instagram: springdale_ccc

Youtube: Springdale Town



The Town uses Facebook to promote Town events, recreation and other classes, and to provide general community information. The Police Department uses Facebook to inform about community issues, road closures, and other police related matters. The CCC uses both Facebook and Instagram to promote town events, recreation and other classes, and other similar events and features.

The Town utilizes our YouTube channel to broadcast public meetings, including the Town Council and Planning Commission meetings.

We encourage the community to follow these pages and channels. These channels can be accessed in the links above, or by clicking the links at the bottom of our Town, Police, and Parks and Recreation website pages.

How to Receive Town Website Alerts and Notifications

Click on Notify Me

Enter email address, and click Sign In, and select the types of notifications you'd like to receive and how you would like to receive them (email or text).