



Emergency Preparedness

Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

The work space provided for each requirement should be used by the Scout to make notes for discussing the item with his counselor, not for providing the full and complete answers. Each Scout must do each requirement.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in **Boy Scout Requirements** (Pub. 33216 – SKU 34765).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2009 • This workbook was updated in March 2012.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Counselor's Phone No.: _____

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Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about improving this workbook to: Workbooks@USScouts.org

1. Earn the First Aid merit badge.

2. Do the following:

a. Discuss with your counselor the aspects of emergency preparedness:

1. Prepare for emergency situations _____

2. Respond to emergency situations _____

3. Recover from emergency situations _____

4. Mitigate and prevent emergency situations _____

Include in your discussion the kinds of questions that are important to ask yourself as you consider each of these.

b. Make a chart that demonstrates your understanding of each of the three aspects of emergency preparedness in requirement 2a with regard to 10 of the situations listed below. You must use situations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 below in boldface but you may choose any other five listed for a total of 10 situations. Discuss this chart with your counselor.

	Situation	Prepare	Respond	Recover	Mitigate
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Home kitchen fire				
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Home basement/ storage room/garage fire				
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Explosion in the home				
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Automobile accident				
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Food-borne disease (food poisoning)				
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Fire or explosion in a public place				
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Vehicle stalled in the desert				
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Vehicle trapped in a blizzard				
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Flash flooding in town or the country				
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Mountain/ backcountry accident				
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Boating accident				
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Gas leak in a home or a building				
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Tornado or hurricane				
<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Major flood				
<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Nuclear power plant emergency				
<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Avalanche (snowslide or rockslide)				
<input type="checkbox"/>	17. Violence in a public place				

- c. Meet with and teach your family how to get or build a kit, make a plan, and be informed for the situations on the chart you created for requirement 2b. Complete a family plan. Then meet with your counselor and report on your family meeting, discuss their responses, and share your family plan. _____

3. Show how you could safely save a person from the following:

- a. Touching a live household electric wire _____

- b. A room filled with carbon monoxide _____

- c. Clothes on fire _____

- d. Drowning using nonswimming rescues (including accidents on ice) _____

4. Show three ways of attracting and communicating with rescue planes/aircraft.

- _____
- _____
- _____

5. With another person, show a good way to move an injured person out of a remote and/or rugged area, conserving the energy of rescuers while ensuring the well-being and protection of the injured person.

6. Do the following:

- a. Tell the things a group of Scouts should be prepared to do, the training they need, and the safety precautions they should take for the following emergency services:

1. Crowd and traffic control

Be prepared to do: _____

Training they need: _____

Safety Precautions: _____

2. Messenger service and communication

Be prepared to do: _____

Training they need: _____

Safety Precautions: _____

3. Collection and distribution services

Be prepared to do: _____

Training they need: _____

Safety Precautions: _____

4. Group feeding, shelter, and sanitation

Be prepared to do: _____

Training they need: _____

Safety Precautions: _____

b. Identify the government or community agencies that normally handle and prepare for the emergency services listed under 6a, and explain to your counselor how a group of Scouts could volunteer to help in the event of these types of emergencies' _____

c. Find out who is your community's emergency management director and learn what this person does to prepare, respond to, recover from, and mitigate and prevent emergency situations in your community. _____

- c. Prepare a personal emergency service pack for a mobilization call.
- Prepare a family kit (suitcase or waterproof box) for use by your family in case an emergency evacuation is needed. Explain the needs and uses of the contents.

9. Do ONE of the following:

- a. Using a safety checklist approved by your counselor, inspect your home for potential hazards. *(See the Sample Home Safety Checklist at the end of this workbook.)*

Explain the hazards you find and how they can be corrected. _____

- b. Review or develop a plan of escape for your family in case of fire in your home. _____

Sample Home Safety Checklist

Scout's Name: _____

Sample Checklist for Requirement 9a. Check safety steps that being taking in your home. Write N/A if the item is not applicable. Items left blank may present a safety hazard. This list provides some sample safety steps you might take. See your Safety Merit Badge pamphlet and counselor for more information. Ask your parent or guardian before making any changes.

Stairways, Halls, and Outdoor Steps

- ___ Stairways with three or more steps have a strong handrail.
- ___ Stairs/halls are kept free from boxes, toys, brooms, tools, etc.
- ___ Gates at top and bottom of stairs prevent children from falling.
- ___ The head and foot of stairs have no small or loose rugs.
- ___ Stair carpeting or covering is fastened securely.
- ___ Stairways & halls have good lighting, controllable at each end.

Kitchen

- ___ Matches are kept where children cannot get them.
- ___ Knives & sharp instruments are kept in knife drawers or holder.
- ___ Can openers don't leave sharp edges on cans.
- ___ Disinfectants & cleaning products are out of reach of children.
- ___ Pan handles are turned away from stove edges.
- ___ Spilled grease, water, or bits of food are wiped up immediately.
- ___ Pot holders are within easy reach.
- ___ A fire extinguisher is mounted near the stove.

Bathroom

- ___ Tub and shower are equipped with strong handholds.
- ___ Tub floor has non-slip surface.
- ___ Poisons are marked, sealed shut, and out of reach of children.
- ___ Medicines are out of reach of children in childproof containers.
- ___ No one takes medicine in the dark.

Attic and Basement

- ___ Ladder is strong, solid, and sturdily constructed.
- ___ Stairway is sturdy and well lighted.
- ___ Children keep skates and play gear in a specific place.
- ___ Walls and beams are free from protruding nails.
- ___ Fuses or circuit breakers are the proper size.
- ___ Rubbish & flammable materials are in covered metal cans.
- ___ Wastepaper is kept away from furnace and stairs.

Living Room and Dining Room

- ___ Furniture is placed to allow easy passage in an emergency.
- ___ Before bedtime, furniture placement is checked for orderliness.
- ___ Furniture and woodwork solid, in good repair, and free from.
- ___ Fireplace screen fits snugly.
- ___ Rugs are fastened or laid on non-slip pads.
- ___ Rugs are kept from curling at their edges.
- ___ Wax on floors is thoroughly buffed.
- ___ Fire in fireplace is extinguished at bedtime.
- ___ Candles are in stable holders and fully extinguished after use.

Bedroom

- ___ Smoke alarm has fresh battery or electrical connection & is tested regularly.
- ___ Carbon monoxide detector has fresh battery or electrical connection and is tested regularly.
- ___ Furniture placement for clear passage between bed and door.
- ___ Light switch or lamp is within easy reach from bed.
- ___ A night-light illuminates bedroom or hall.
- ___ Bureau and dresser drawers are closed when not in use.
- ___ Bar across bunk beds helps prevent falls.
- ___ Children are taught not to lean against windows or screens.
- ___ Sturdily screen low windows to prevent children from falling.
- ___ Smoking in bed is prohibited.
- ___ Gas and electric heating devices are turned off at bedtime.

Nursery

- ___ Bars on cribs are closely spaced.
- ___ Crib is approved by Consumer Products or similar.
- ___ Crib is free from sharp edges or corners.
- ___ Sleeping garments and covers keep baby warm without danger of smothering.
- ___ Pillows are kept out of bassinet or crib.
- ___ No thin, plastic material is in or near the crib.
- ___ Children are taught not to give marbles, etc. to younger children.
- ___ Toys are sturdy & have no sharp edges.
- ___ Nontoxic paint is used on baby furniture and toys.
- ___ All houseplants are nonpoisonous.

Sample Home Safety Checklist

Scout's Name: _____

Stoves, Furnaces, and Heaters

- ___ Stoves are away from curtains.
- ___ Stoves & furnaces are inspected & cleaned annually.
- ___ Gas burners are properly adjusted and free from leaks.
- ___ Gas water and space heaters are equipped with vents or flues.
- ___ Water heater or boiler has a safety valve & is checked yearly.
- ___ Flames of gas burners are protected from drafts.
- ___ Insulating shield protects woodwork within 18" of furnace, etc.
- ___ Keep flammable materials away from stoves, furnaces, etc.
- ___ A wrench is stored near the shut-off valve of outside gas line.

Porch, Yard, and Garage

- ___ Railings and banisters are sound and inspected periodically.
- ___ Steps and walks are kept free from ice and snow.
- ___ Yard/play space are free from holes, stones, glass, etc.
- ___ Tools and dangerous articles are out of reach of children.
- ___ Dangerous products & chemicals are kept in original containers in locked storage areas.
- ___ Wires and low fences are brightly painted or clearly marked.
- ___ Wells, cisterns, and pits are kept securely covered.
- ___ Disposable materials are not burned outside.
- ___ An area is marked off in the garage for bicycles, wagons, etc.
- ___ Lawn mower is equipped with proper safeguards.

Workshop

- ___ Good ventilation exists, especially when sanding.
- ___ Safety goggles and/or face mask are available, with eyewash.
- ___ Baking soda is kept handy to neutralize acid burns.
- ___ All electrical tools are either three-wire or double-insulated.
- ___ Work area is well lit & free of clutter, scraps, rags.
- ___ All tools have a place & are in their place.
- ___ Guards are in place on all power tools.
- ___ A push stick is available for use with power saws.

Electrical Devices and Fixtures

- ___ Electrical fixtures and appliances are located & used beyond arm's length of the sink, stove, tub, shower, or other grounded metal unless outlet is protected by a ground-fault interrupter.
- ___ Do not touch electrical fixtures or appliances with wet hands.
- ___ Disconnect seldom-used appliances when not in use.
- ___ All pull-type sockets have an insulating link.

- ___ Household appliances are disconnected before repairs.
- ___ Unused, open, screw-type sockets are plugged closed.
- ___ Frayed or worn electric cords are promptly replaced.
- ___ Long trailing cords are not in evidence. ___ UA-approved extension cords are the proper size.
- ___ Cords are kept out from under rugs, doors, and furniture.
- ___ Children are taught never to touch electric sockets or fixtures.
- ___ Fuses are adequate for the load and are not bypassed.
- ___ Circuit breakers are not overloaded.

General

- ___ At least one smoke detector in each bedroom & garage.
- ___ Everything has a place and is in its place.
- ___ Stepladders are in good repair and stored out of the way.
- ___ Window screens and storm windows are securely fastened.
- ___ Guns are stored unloaded and in locked cases.
- ___ Guns and ammunition are stored separately.
- ___ Children are permitted to use only blunt-end scissors.
- ___ Housework clothing has no drooping sleeves, sashes, or frills.
- ___ Shoes worn for housework have low heels.
- ___ All shoes are in good repair.
- ___ Kerosene, gasoline, paint thinners, and other volatile materials are stored outside in special, clearly marked metal containers.
- ___ Oil mops, dust rags, painting equipment, and other oily materials are stored outside in open metal containers.
- ___ Everyone turns on a light before entering a dark room.
- ___ Matches are extinguished before they're thrown away.
- ___ Children are never permitted to play with matches.
- ___ Fire extinguishers are readily available.

For Emergency

- ___ Know how to get emergency help (911, poison control, etc.).
- ___ Be able to find water, gas, & electric shutoffs. Check annually.
- ___ First aid kit approved by your doctor/American Red Cross.
- ___ Know basic first aid procedures.
- ___ Have a fire escape plan from your home.
- ___ Emergency water supply.
- ___ Handheld flashlights readily available.
- ___ In earthquake-prone areas, make sure that the water heater and bookcases are bolted to the walls.

Important excerpts from the [‘Guide To Advancement’](#), No. 33088:

Effective January 1, 2012, the ‘Guide to Advancement’ (which replaced the publication ‘Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures’) is now the *official* Boy Scouts of America source on advancement policies and procedures.

- **[Inside front cover, and 5.0.1.4] — Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program**
No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements.
(There are limited exceptions relating only to youth members with disabilities. For details see section 10, “Advancement for Members With Special Needs”.)
- **[Inside front cover, and 7.0.1.1] — The [‘Guide to Safe Scouting’](#) Applies**
Policies and procedures outlined in the ‘Guide to Safe Scouting’, No. 34416, apply to all BSA activities, including those related to advancement and Eagle Scout service projects. [Note: Always reference the online version, which is updated quarterly.]
- **[7.0.3.1] — The Buddy System and Certifying Completion**
Youth members must not meet one-on-one with adults. Sessions with counselors must take place where others can view the interaction, or the Scout must have a buddy: a friend, parent, guardian, brother, sister, or other relative —or better yet, another Scout working on the same badge— along with him attending the session. When the Scout meets with the counselor, he should bring any required projects. If these cannot be transported, he should present evidence, such as photographs or adult certification. His unit leader, for example, might state that a satisfactory bridge or tower has been built for the Pioneering merit badge, or that meals were prepared for Cooking. If there are questions that requirements were met, a counselor may confirm with adults involved. Once satisfied, the counselor signs the blue card using the date upon which the Scout completed the requirements, or in the case of partials, initials the individual requirements passed.
- **[7.0.3.2] — Group Instruction**
It is acceptable—and sometimes desirable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings. This often occurs at camp and merit badge midways or similar events. Interactive group discussions can support learning. The method can also be attractive to “guest experts” assisting registered and approved counselors. Slide shows, skits, demonstrations, panels, and various other techniques can also be employed, but as any teacher can attest, not everyone will learn all the material.

There must be attention to each individual’s projects and his fulfillment of *all* requirements. We must know that every Scout — actually and *personally*— completed them. If, for example, a requirement uses words like “show,” “demonstrate,” or “discuss,” then every Scout must do that. It is unacceptable to award badges on the basis of sitting in classrooms *watching* demonstrations, or remaining silent during discussions. Because of the importance of individual attention in the merit badge plan, group instruction should be limited to those scenarios where the benefits are compelling.
- **[7.0.3.3] — Partial Completions**
Scouts need not pass all requirements with one counselor. The Application for Merit Badge has a place to record what has been finished — a “partial.” In the center section on the reverse of the blue card, the counselor initials for each requirement passed. In the case of a partial completion, he or she does not retain the counselor’s portion of the card. A subsequent counselor may choose not to accept partial work, but this should be rare. A Scout, if he believes he is being treated unfairly, may work with his Scoutmaster to find another counselor. An example for the use of a signed partial would be to take it to camp as proof of prerequisites. Partials have no expiration except the 18th birthday.