

Emergency Planning Suggestions for "CAFAF Families" from "CAFAF Families"



- Notify DCF if you have an emergency that may limit your ability to care for the children in your home.
- Call DCF's Careline (1-800-842-2288) to notify DCF if you need to move from your home and identify the location where you are moving the family. If you can, call the child's social worker as well as your support worker with this information.
- Be especially prepared if you are caring for medically complex children or children on medication. Try to get re-fills of medication in advance of an expected storm.
- If you are caring for technology dependent children, you should already have a generator for back-up power. If you don't, call your DCF worker to obtain one.
- Create a plan **with your children** if one of them cannot make it home during a storm: Plans should include the following:
 - Assess your location: Where are you? Is it safe? Can you stay there until the storm passes? If not, where is the nearest safe place? Can you get to the nearest safe place or do you need help to get to a safe place? Do you have a phone? How much battery life is left? If you have no phone, is there a safe adult to ask to make a call for you?
 - Plan periodic communication: Can you call me again in an hour to let me know you are still okay? Reassess your location.
- If you are caring for children that run away (DCF calls these kids "AWOL") talk to your children about being weather conscious and smart. Kids need to know they can return to your home, even if there may later be a consequence for running (being AWOL.) SAFETY FIRST!
- Pre-program cell phones, both your own and your children's phones with the numbers for DCF's Careline (1-800-842-2288) as well as their social worker and any other reliable safe adult that they can turn for help.
- Try to remember to carry phone chargers with you and/or your children. Even if you lose power, if you can get somewhere with power, you can recharge your phone.
- Remind children to pay attention to weather reports and to wear warm coats, carry gloves, hats and boots.
- Prepare your home for days without power by pre-stocking the following:
 - 1 Gallon of water per person per day
 - Canned & jarred foods (soups, fruits, vegetables, tuna, peanut butter)
 - Infant formula and diapers if appropriate
 - Flashlights and batteries; candles if extremely careful
 - Use caution if you have/can use gas; watch for leaks
 - Check carbon monoxide detectors periodically

We invite you to write to us if you think we need to add to the list!