



31° F


HI:35 LO:30

Low prices on everything
you need to get back on track.




Walmart
Shop

ChevyChasePatch



Like198

[Nearby](#)[Top](#)



Editor [Laura L Thornton](#): Heard some news you want us to check out? Let me know:
laura.thornton@patch.com

Home	News	Events	Places	Traffic & Gas	Gallery	More	Search
----------------------	----------------------	------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------	--------


Manage Your Blog Post

This blog post was published on January 20, 2012 at 12:00 pm.

[Add Media](#)

[Edit Media](#)

Local Voices



[Todd Jasper](#)

Federal emergency manager (consultant), Apple addict, always challenging the status quo

3 Easy Steps Could Save Your Life

Posted on January 20, 2012 at 12:00 pm

Like

Tweet2

[Email](#)

[Print](#)

[Comment](#)



Imagine this:

As you get your children ready for school, you hear sirens down the street. Your neighbor calls and says he thinks there's been a car accident. Suddenly there's a loud knock at the door from a police officer. She urgently tells you to evacuate the area. The officer explains that there's been a major natural gas leak and it's unsafe to stay in your home. Before you can ask any more questions, the officer moves on to the next house.

What do you do? Where do you go? Do you take your pets? Do you have an emergency kit? Does it contain your medication, insurance information, emergency phone numbers?

This scenario, while scary, is not terribly uncommon. What's really frightening is that most citizens are unprepared for disasters. We carry a fire extinguisher in our cars, we have insurance for a fire, and we teach our children to dial 9-1-1, but is that enough?

The answer is no!

As an emergency manager, I am frequently asked by people what they can do to be prepared for a disaster. Here are three easy steps:

1. **Sign up for [Montgomery County Emergency Alerts](#)**

You could be the best prepared person in the world, but it doesn't matter unless you know about an emergency as it's happening. As our scenario above illustrated, sometimes rumors can spread faster than accurate information. In Chevy Chase, it might be a while before the local news covers an incident in our area. Everyone needs to take a moment to sign up for emergency notifications directly from the county. The messages will be sent to your cell phone, email account, pager, and BlackBerry device. To instantly register your phone, simply send a text message with MONTGOMERY to 411911.

2. **Create emergency kits!**

Most organizations tell you to create a kit. I make a special point of emphasizing the need for more than one. You need an emergency kit at a

office, in your car, and at home. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a great website for more information on [building emergency kits](#), for more information on disaster preparedness, visit [www.Ready.gov](#).

3. Create a plan

This [one-page template](#) is available from Ready.gov as well, and is meant to be printed and folded into a wallet-sized card. It's important that your plan include medical information (such as food/medicine allergies for everyone in your family, any current medications and a quick medical plan as appropriate), emergency contact information for your family members, a neighborhood emergency meeting place, an out-of-neighborhood meeting place, an out-of-town meeting place, directions to all meeting locations, insurance information (including homeowner's/renter's insurance) and [phone numbers for utilities in Chevy Chase](#).

If everyone is able to follow the three easy steps above, it could very well save your life!

In future articles on Patch.com, I'll cover what you should have in your kits and homes to be better prepared.

Todd Jasper is a federal emergency manager and has been happy to call Chevy Chase home since 2008. His emergency management blog is at [www.toddjasper.com](#).

Like

Tweet2

Email

Print

Follow comments

Submit tip

Edit photos & video

Comment

Leave a comment

☒ Send me email updates for this Blog Post

Submit



Advertise

Advertise on Patch and reach potential customers in your backyard and beyond. Click here for more information.
[Learn more »](#)

Volunteer

If you want to help local causes, or your cause needs local help, your next click should be right here.
[Learn more »](#)

Contribute

- [Send us news tips](#)
- [Put an event on the calendar](#)
- [Announce something to everyone](#)

Patch Info

- [About Us](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)

Get in Touch

- [Help](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Patch Blog](#)

Patch Initiatives

- [PatchU](#)
- [Patch.org](#)

Goodies

- [Newsletters](#)
- [Widgets](#)

