



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary **Department of Wisconsin**



Americanism Bulletin – September 2018

The focus for this month is Safety in America/Disaster Preparedness. In this uncertain and unpredictable world, we need to be prepared for challenges and disasters. Some of these can include flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, hail, snow, ice, sleet, wildfires, earthquakes.

I recommend a backpack or a bucket with a lid and handle stocked with at least a two-week supply of needs. Keep your backpack in your car and the bucket in an easily accessible location for a quick exit from your home. Include items such as flashlight and batteries, fire starter, emergency blanket (MCR medical silver metallic – prevents heat loss, hypothermia and is waterproof), safety light (SnapLight burns for 12 hours), hooded poncho, water, crackers, canned food, can opener, whistle, phone and charger, keys for your home, car and safe deposit box, medications for one or two weeks, copies of insurance information for health, home and auto, bank information. Go to the website FEMA.gov for more info.

Suggest an emergency backpack or container project to your Auxiliary. Members could fill an emergency backpack or container with many of the above items to offer for sale to the public or to use in a raffle or fundraiser.

Do you and your family have an exit plan from your home, especially in the event of a fire? Do your family members know where to meet if they become separated? Does someone in your family know where your paperwork is explaining who you want contacted in case of an emergency? Please inform your family where important documents are, such as medical, power of attorney, will and your last wishes.

Other safety concerns include crimes against our family and friends – stalking, shootings and bombings. Our local and national law enforcement is telling us, “If you see something, SAY something!” Be aware of your surroundings when you go into a theater, grocery store, department store, doctor’s office, arena, building, any facility, even a train or a plane, and **KNOW YOUR EXITS!**

We also have phone and internet scams, identity theft and cybersecurity issues. NEVER give out personal or financial information to someone who contacts you over the phone or the computer. Agencies such as the IRS or the electric company will never contact you by phone or email for any type of payment.

Check out this website for more info on Safety and Disaster Preparedness: Ready.gov

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“Reaching For The Stars For Veterans” and “Believe...We Can Do It”