

**UCLA** Health System

Get Ready  
Stay Ready



Personal Preparedness Challenge 2010

Office of Emergency Preparedness  
UCLA Health System

February 2010

Dear UCLA Health System Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers:

Are you prepared?

Emergencies and disasters can happen anytime and anywhere. They typically strike without warning and disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives each year. Each emergency and disaster has its own lasting effects on individuals, families, and communities. Through preparedness efforts, you can help reduce the fear and anxieties related to these unknown situations as well as reduce the immediate and long term risks to you and your families.

We recognize that emergency planning can be overwhelming if you attempt to think about every situation, so the program is designed so that each month, you can take one step to completing your personal preparedness. At the end of one year, you and your family will have successfully completed a comprehensive emergency plan and put together an all hazards disaster kit.

Each month, we will be sending out a reminder email with the monthly theme. This month we will be focusing on **Water**. While we suggest that you perform at least one task a month as outlined, you could choose to complete these personal preparedness tasks at a faster rate. To download the entire program, please go to:

<http://disaster.mednet.ucla.edu/2010challenge.pdf>.

Sincerely,

The Office of Emergency Preparedness  
UCLA Health System

PS - Please note that a basic 3-day supply is discussed throughout this program as a minimum kit that can be used at home, or taken with you in the event of an evacuation. After considering the needs of your household, and the disasters or emergencies that may occur in your area, you may wish to increase your level of preparedness to be self sufficient for a longer period of time.

# Water



**TASK:** Prepare and store a 72 hour supply of water for all household members.

## **How Much:**

You should store at least one gallon of water per person per day. To determine adequate quantities, take the following into account:

- Individual needs vary, depending on age, physical condition, activity, diet, and climate.
- Children, nursing mothers, and ill people need more water.
- Very hot temperatures can double the amount of water needed.
- A medical emergency might require additional water.

## **How to Store:**

To prepare safest and most reliable emergency supply of water, it is recommended you purchase commercially bottled water. Keep bottled water in its original container and do not open it until you need to use it. Observe the expiration or “use by” date.

## **If you are preparing your own containers of water:**

It is recommended you purchase food-grade water storage containers from surplus or camping supplies stores to use for water storage. Before filling with water, thoroughly clean the containers with dishwashing soap and water, and rinse completely so there is no residual soap. Follow directions below on filling the container with water.

If you choose to use your own storage containers, choose two-liter plastic soft drink bottles – not plastic jugs or cardboard containers that have had milk or fruit juice in them. Milk protein and fruit sugars cannot be adequately removed from these containers and provide an environment for bacterial growth when water is stored in them. Cardboard containers also leak easily and are not designed for long-term storage of liquids. Also, do not use glass containers, because they can break and are heavy.

## **If storing water in plastic soda bottles, follow these steps:**

Thoroughly clean the bottles with dishwashing soap and water, and rinse completely so there is no residual soap. Sanitize the bottles by adding a solution of 1 teaspoon of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to a quart of water. Swish the sanitizing solution in the bottle so that it touches all surfaces. After sanitizing the bottle, thoroughly rinse out the sanitizing solution with clean water.

### **Filling Water Containers:**



Fill the bottle to the top with regular tap water. If the tap water has been commercially treated from a water utility with chlorine, you do not need to add anything else to the water to keep it clean. If the water you are using comes from a well or water source that is not treated with chlorine, add two drops of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to the water. Tightly close the container using the original cap. Be careful not to contaminate the cap by touching the inside of it with your finger. Place a date on the outside of the container so that you know when you filled it. Store in a cool, dark place. Replace the water every six months if not using commercially bottled water.

### **Water Purification:**

If you need to purify water and do not have any purification tablets or are unable to boil water for 10 minutes, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services suggest the following:

<b>Water</b>	<b>Bleach (if Water is Clear)</b>	<b>Bleach (if Water is Cloudy)</b>
1 gallon	8 drops	16 drops
5 gallons	½ teaspoon	1 teaspoon
<b>Use liquid chlorine bleach (5.25% hypochlorite). Wait 30 minutes before drinking.</b>		