



## Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge in the City of Richardson

View list of Merit Badge Series Requirements in detail at:  
[https://www.scouting.org/filestore/Merit\\_Badge\\_RegandRes/Emergency\\_Preparedness.pdf](https://www.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Emergency_Preparedness.pdf)

### Aspects of emergency preparedness (2a):

**Prevent:** Preventative measures are designed to provide protection from hazards; however, not all hazards can be prevented. The risk of loss of life and injury can be limited through:

- Evacuation Plans
- Environmental Planning and Consideration
- Code Compliance

**Mitigate:** Mitigation includes any activities that prevents an emergency, reduces the chance of an emergency happening or lessens the damaging effects of emergencies. Some examples of mitigation activities include:

- Building Codes
- Flood Plain Management

**Prepare:** Preparedness includes a variety of measures aimed at ensuring the community is prepared to react to any hazard that threatens the community. Preparedness involves all of the following activities:

- Planning

- Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
  - Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)
  - Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Training
- Equipping responders with necessary resources and personal protective equipment
- Exercises
  - Tabletop Exercises
  - Drills
  - Functional Exercises
  - Evaluating and creating improvements based on exercise results
- Education - For checklists and plans visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)

**Respond:** Response is an action taken immediately before, during and just after a disaster or major emergency. The goal of the responder is to save lives, minimize property damage and enhance the beginning of recovery from the incident. Response is accomplished through some of the following methods:

- Warnings
  - Emergency Alert System (EAS)
    - WBAP 820 AM is our primary radio station
  - Outdoor Warning System (Sirens)
    - 22 sirens in Richardson
    - Tested on the first Wednesday of the month at noon, weather permitting
  - Community Emergency Notification - sign up for calls, texts, and emails for emergencies near your address at [www.cor.net/ENS](http://www.cor.net/ENS)
  - NOAA All Hazard Radio - Alerts are provided directly from the National Weather Service in Fort Worth, with input from Richardson Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) members via the Office of Emergency Management.
    - Every household and business should have a NOAA radio.
- Debris Clearing
- Search and Rescue
- Decontamination
- Evacuation
- Sheltering
- Coordinate and Manage Resources
- Stabilize the Incident
- Assess the Damage

**Recover:** Recovery is the process of returning infrastructure systems to minimum operating levels including long-term efforts designed to return life to normal or improved conditions after a disaster. It is achieved through activities such as:

- Restoration of Critical Functions (Water, Electricity, and Gas)
- Debris Removal
- Crisis Counseling

**Government and community agencies that normally handle and prepare for the emergency services (6b) and how can a group of scouts volunteer to help in the event of these types of emergencies?**

- Crowd and traffic control
  - Richardson Police Department and Richardson Traffic Department
- Messenger service and communications
  - Richardson Communications Department
  - Richardson Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)
- Collection and distribution services
  - Collin and Dallas County Volunteer Organizations active in Disaster (VOAD)
- Group feeding, shelter, and sanitation
  - Richardson Parks Department, American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army
- In the event of a disaster, scouts can volunteer through <https://richardson.recovers.org/>
- The best actions to take are to prepare yourself, your family, your friends, neighbors, and fellow troop members to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours.
- Follow the Scout's motto to "Be Prepared"

## **Richardson Office of Emergency Management has three (3) people working towards emergency preparedness in Richardson (6c)**

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The Office of Emergency Management's mission is to ensure that the capability exists for all Richardson government departments to respond, manage, and recover from major emergencies and/or disasters. This is accomplished in part by the development of the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Recovery Plan and the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

The Office of Emergency Management serves as the designated office for monitoring state and federal standards and practices and as the technical advisor to the Mayor and staff on related issues governing the national emergency management/domestic preparedness system.

