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## **Region 6 Homeland Security Board and Safeguard Iowa Partnership Announce Week 9 of “20 Weeks to Preparedness Program”**

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The focus of Week 9 is Pets! For those with pets don't forget to plan for their safety during a disaster. 20 Weeks to Preparedness Program is brought to you by the Region 6 Homeland Security Board and Safeguard Iowa Partnership. This program will help to better prepare you and your family, a little at a time, over a 20 week period. Each week new preparedness information will be shared including a list of items to gather or purchase for your disaster supply kit. Sign up at [www.safeguardiowa.org/subscribe-to-be-prepared](http://www.safeguardiowa.org/subscribe-to-be-prepared) to receive weekly reminders and announcements related to the 20 Weeks to Preparedness program.

Use this program to gather items for your kit in small steps over a five month period. Remember to change and replace perishable items by the expiration date. Purchasing the food suggested by this program would last approximately 3-5 days.

Place in storage bin:

- ✓ Extra flashlight
- ✓ Whistle
- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ Granola and/or snack bars
- ✓ Large, clear, empty plastic jar, such as mayonnaise, and a candle to fit inside

Personalized Item (if applicable):

- ✓ Pet leash and crate
- ✓ Make copies of pet vaccination and/or prescription information

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. Unfortunately, animals are also affected by disasters. If you evacuate your home, do not leave your pets behind! Pets most likely cannot survive on their own and if by some remote chance they do, they may not be able to find them when you return. If you are going to public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. It is important to plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for you and your pets.

To do:

- ✓ Install smoke and carbon dioxide alarms. Test the alarms.

Additional assistance is available by contacting your local Emergency Management Coordinator at 319-356-6761 or visiting their website at [www.jecc-ema.org](http://www.jecc-ema.org) Visit Safeguard Iowa Partnership at [www.safeguardiowa.org](http://www.safeguardiowa.org)

The Region 6 Homeland Security Board is comprised of fourteen counties in eastern Iowa that coordinate homeland security planning, training, exercise, response, and recovery. The counties included are Benton, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Cedar, Clayton, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Iowa, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Scott.