



Emergency Preparedness

Merit Badge Workbook



Requirements current as of 2026

Unofficial study aid • Not affiliated with or endorsed by Scouting America

This workbook can help you, but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet. It can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor.

Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.

You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information. Use the space provided for each requirement to keep track of what you have completed and to make notes for discussing it with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers. Where a requirement says to discuss, explain, describe, or tell, that is what you must do.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in Scouts BSA Requirements (Pub. 33216) and on [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org).

The requirements were last revised January 1, 2026 • This workbook was updated in October 2026.

Scout's Name: Unit: Date Started:

Counselor's Name: Phone No.: Email:

Made by Cole at [ScoutSmarts.com](https://scoutsmarts.com), an Eagle Scout who loves helping Scouts. Spot an error? Tell me at scoutsmarts.com/contact.

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1. Emergency Situations. Do the following:

Tip: You only need 10 of the 21 situations. Pick ones that could happen where you live or on trips you take, and use Ready.gov from FEMA to research each one.

- ☐ a. Discuss with your counselor the aspects of emergency preparedness and include in your discussion the kinds of questions that are important to ask yourself as you consider each of these: prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.

Scouting America resources: [5 Steps of Disaster Risk Management \(video\)](https://www.scouting.org/resources/5-steps-of-disaster-risk-management-video/)

The Five Aspects of Emergency Preparedness

Aspect	What it means	Questions to ask yourself
Prevention		
Protection		
Mitigation		
Response		
Recovery		

- ☐ b. Using a chart, spreadsheet, or another method approved by your counselor, demonstrate your understanding of each aspect of emergency preparedness listed in requirement 1(a) (prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery) for 10 emergency situations from the list below. Discuss your findings with your counselor.

Check the 10 situations you choose from the list below, then fill in the chart that follows it.

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- ☐ (1) Home stovetop or oven fire
Scouting America resources: [How to Put Out a Stovetop Fire \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (2) Home flammable liquid fire
Scouting America resources: [Flammable Liquids \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (3) Gas leak in or near a home or with outside cooking
Scouting America resources: [What to Do If You Smell Gas \(video\)](#) • [How to Turn Off Main Gas Valve \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (4) Food poisoning
Scouting America resources: [Stomach Flu and Food Poisoning \(video\)](#) • [Safe Food Handling \(video\)](#) • [How to Know If You Have Food Poisoning \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (5) Automobile crash
Scouting America resources: [Responding to a Car Crash \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (6) Vehicle stalled in the desert
Scouting America resources: [A Desert Survival Experience \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (7) Vehicle trapped in a blizzard
Scouting America resources: [How to Survive A Car Stranding in Winter \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (8) Backcountry injury
Scouting America resources: [Patient Assessment \(video\)](#) • [Review of Traumatic Injuries with Wilderness First Aid \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (9) Boating or water accident
Scouting America resources: [Preventing and Managing Boating Accidents \(website\)](#)
- ☐ (10) Toxic chemical spills and releases
Scouting America resources: [Chemical Spill Preparedness \(video\)](#) • [Household Chemical Emergencies \(website\)](#)
- ☐ (11) Nuclear power plant emergency
Scouting America resources: [How to Stay Safe in a Nuclear Emergency \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (12) Fire or explosion in a public place
Scouting America resources: [How to Survive a Building Explosion \(video\)](#) • [How to Survive a Burning High-Rise \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (13) Violence in a public place
Scouting America resources: [A Navy SEAL Reveals How to Survive an Active Shooter \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (14) Wildland fire
Scouting America resources: [If You Are Trapped by a Wildfire \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (15) Avalanche (snowslide or rockslide)
Scouting America resources: [Survive an Avalanche \(video\)](#) • [How to Survive a Landslide \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (16) Earthquake
Scouting America resources: [10 Ways to Survive an Earthquake \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (17) Tsunami
Scouting America resources: [How to Survive a Tsunami \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (18) Major flooding or a flash flood with water outage
Scouting America resources: [How to Survive a Flood \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (19) Hurricane with power outage
Scouting America resources: [How to Survive a Hurricane \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (20) Tornado
Scouting America resources: [How to Survive a Tornado \(video\)](#)
- ☐ (21) Lightning storm
Scouting America resources: [What Happens When You Are Struck by Lightning \(video\)](#) • [Backcountry Lightning Safety \(website\)](#)

Keep each box to a few key words. Your counselor wants to hear you explain them out loud.

My Emergency Situations Chart

#	Situation	Prevention	Protection	Mitigation	Response	Recovery
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

2. Planning for Family Emergencies. Do the following:

Tip: Bring your requirement 1(b) chart to the family meeting. Going through each situation together makes it easy to decide whether your family would stay put or leave.

- ☐ a. At a family meeting, discuss the situations on the chart you created for requirement 1(b) and make emergency plans for sheltering-in-place and for evacuation of your home. Discuss your family meeting and plans with your counselor.

Scouting America resources: [How to Shelter in Place \(video\)](#) • [How to Evacuate From Wildfires \(video\)](#)

Date of family meeting:

Who attended:

Our shelter-in-place plan:

Our evacuation plan:

- ☐ b. Develop and practice a plan of escape for your family in case of fire in your home. Draw a floor plan with escape routes and a map with a safe meeting place. Discuss your family's home escape plan with your counselor.

Draw your floor plan with escape routes, and your map with the safe meeting place, on a separate sheet or in a drawing app. Bring it to your counselor.

Our safe meeting place:

Date we practiced:

Time it took everyone to get out:

What we learned from practicing:

- ☐ c. Using a checklist in the Emergency Preparedness merit badge pamphlet or one approved by your counselor, prepare or inspect a family disaster kit for sheltering-in-place and for evacuation of your home. Review the needs and uses of the items in a kit with your counselor.

Scouting America resources: [Checklist for Sheltering in Place \(PDF\)](#) • [Checklist for Evacuation \(PDF\)](#) • [Build a Kit \(website\)](#)

Checklist used:

Date:

Family Disaster Kit

#	Item	Shelter, evacuation, or both?	Why we need it
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Family Disaster Kit (continued)

#	Item	Shelter, evacuation, or both?	Why we need it
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			

3. Preventing Accidents and Emergencies. Do ONE of the following:

- ☐ a. Using a home safety checklist included in the Emergency Preparedness merit badge pamphlet or one approved by your counselor, inspect a home (or a similar building near where you live or at a camp) for safety hazards with the help of an adult. Present your completed checklist to and discuss your findings with your counselor.

Scouting America resources: [Checklists Home Safety \(PDF\)](#)

Building inspected:

Adult who helped:

Checklist used:

Date:

Hazards Found

Area	Hazard I found	How it can be fixed
Kitchen		
Bedrooms		
Bathrooms		
Living areas		
Stairs and hallways		
Garage or basement		
Outside		
Other		

- ☐ b. Develop emergency prevention plans for five family activities outside the home, as approved by your counselor. (Examples are taking a picnic to a park, seeing a movie, attending a worship service, an outing at a beach, traveling to visit a relative, or attending a ball game or concert.) Each plan should include an analysis of possible hazards, proposals to prevent, protect from, mitigate, respond to, and recover from emergencies, and the reasons for the actions that you propose.

Scouting America resources: [Building an Emergency Kit \(video\)](#)

Emergency Prevention Plans

#	Activity and possible hazards	Prevention	Protection	Mitigation	Response	Recovery
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

Reasons for the actions I propose:

4. **Dangerous Situations.** Show how you could save a person from the following dangerous situations without putting yourself in danger:

Tip: For a building filled with carbon monoxide, don't stop to open windows or hunt for the source. Get everyone out to fresh air and call 911 from outside.

- ☐ a. Live household electric wire

Scouting America resources: [Rescue and First Aid for Electric Shock \(video\)](#)

- ☐ b. A structure filled with carbon monoxide

Scouting America resources: [Rescue from CO Poisoning \(video\)](#)

- ☐ c. Clothes on fire

Scouting America resources: [Stop. Drop. Roll. Get Low and Go \(video\)](#)

- ☐ d. Drowning, using nonswimming rescues (including accidents on ice)

Scouting America resources: [Reach, Throw, Row, but Don't Go! \(video\)](#) • [A Patrol Performs An Ice Rescue \(video\)](#)

5. **Signaling for Help.** Do the following:

Tip: Signals in threes mean distress: three whistle blasts, three fires in a triangle, or three flashes of a light. A whistle carries farther than your voice and won't wear you out.

- ☐ a. Show three ways of attracting and communicating with rescue aircraft or drones.

Scouting America resources: [Ground to Air Signals \(video\)](#)

1. 2. 3.

How I would show or use them:

- ☐ b. Show ways to attract the attention of searchers on the ground if you are lost in the wilderness.

Scouting America resources: [Ways to Signal for Help in the Wilderness \(video\)](#)

- ☐ c. Show ways to attract the attention of searchers on the water if you are stranded with a capsized or disabled motorboat or sailboat.

Scouting America resources: [Signaling Devices for a Water Rescue \(video\)](#) • [Water Rescue Signaling \(video\)](#) • [How does an EPIRB work? \(video\)](#) • [PLB and EPIRB Emergency Beacons \(video\)](#)

6. **Moving an Injured Person.** With another person, show two good ways to transport an injured person out of a remote area using improvised stretchers to conserve the energy of rescuers while ensuring the well-being and protection of the injured person.

Scouting America resources: [Improvised Stretchers \(video\)](#)

Tip: Practice at a troop meeting with a volunteer. The carrier at the feet leads and calls out obstacles, and you switch spots when you get tired.

Stretcher	Materials used	How we built it and carried the person
Stretcher 1		
Stretcher 2		

Partner:

Date shown:

7. **National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS).** Do the following:

- ☐ a. Describe the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the local Incident Command System (ICS).

Scouting America resources: [NIMS \(video\)](#) • [ICS \(video\)](#)

	What it is	How it works and who uses it
NIMS		
ICS		

- ☐ b. Find out how your community and its leaders work to manage and to train for disasters. Discuss this information with your counselor.

Local emergency management office or leader:

- ☐ c. Discuss how a Scout troop can help in an emergency situation using ICS.

8. **Emergency Service.** Do the following:

- ☐ a. Discuss with your counselor the duties that a Scout troop should be prepared to do, the training they need, and the safety precautions they should take for the following emergency services:

Scouting America resources: [Agency Cooperation in an ICS \(video\)](#)

- ☐ (1) Crowd and traffic control

Scouting America resources: [Guidelines for Managing Crowds \(website\)](#)

- ☐ (2) Messenger service during an incident

Scouting America resources: [Social Media Messaging for Natural Disasters \(website\)](#)

- ☐ (3) Collection and distribution services

Scouting America resources: [Food Bank \(video\)](#)

- ☐ (4) Group feeding, shelter, and sanitation

Scouting America resources: [Feeding LA Wildfire Evacuees \(video\)](#)

Emergency service	Duties	Training needed	Safety precautions
(1) Crowd and traffic control			
(2) Messenger service			
(3) Collection and distribution			
(4) Group feeding, shelter, and sanitation			

- ☐ b. Prepare a written plan for mobilizing your troop when needed to do emergency service. If your troop already has a mobilization plan, present the plan to your counselor and tell your part in making the plan work.

My troop: ☐ Already has a plan ☐ Needs a new plan

Our mobilization plan (or my part in our troop's plan):

- ☐ c. Using a checklist in the Emergency Preparedness merit badge pamphlet or one approved by your counselor, prepare or inspect a personal emergency service pack for a mobilization call. Explain the needs and uses of the contents to your counselor.

Scouting America resources: [Checklist for Go Bag \(PDF\)](#) • [Family and Personal Emergency Kits \(website\)](#)

Checklist used: Date:

Personal Emergency Service Pack

#	Item	Why I need it
1		
2		
3		
4		

Personal Emergency Service Pack (continued)

#	Item	Why I need it
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

- ☐ d. Take part in an emergency service project, either a real one or a practice exercise, with a Scouting troop or a community agency or at Scout camp or at a school. Review what you learned and practiced with your counselor.

Scouting America resources: [Emergency Procedures at Camp \(video\)](#)

Project or exercise:

Date:

Run by (troop, agency, camp, or school):

What I learned and practiced:

9. First Aid Merit Badge. Earn the First Aid merit badge.

Date I earned the First Aid merit badge:

10. Careers. Do ONE of the following:

- ☐ a. Interview an emergency services coordinator or a civil servant about their work in disaster management. Learn about how they chose this career and about their duties. Discuss what you learned with your counselor and whether you might be interested in this career.

Scouting America resources: [NYC Emergency Management Interns \(video\)](#)

Person interviewed:

Job title:

How they chose this career, and their duties:

Might I be interested in this career? Why or why not?

- ☐ b. Identify three career opportunities that would use skills and knowledge in emergency services. Pick one and research the training, education, certification requirements, experience, and expenses associated with entering the field. Research the prospects for employment, starting salary, advancement opportunities, and career goals associated with this career. Discuss what you learned with your counselor and whether you might be interested in this career.

Scouting America resources: [Explore a Career in Disaster and Emergency Management \(video\)](#)

1.

2.

3.

My Career Research

Topic	What I found
Career I picked	
Training	
Education	
Certification requirements	
Experience	
Expenses	
Prospects for employment	
Starting salary	
Advancement opportunities	
Career goals	

Might I be interested in this career? Why or why not?

- ☐ c. Identify how you might use the skills and knowledge in the field of emergency preparedness to pursue a personal hobby and/or healthy lifestyle. Research the additional training required, expenses, and affiliation with organizations that would help you maximize the enjoyment and benefit you might gain from it. Discuss what you learned with your counselor and share what short-term and long-term goals you might have if you pursued this.

Scouting America resources: [Teen CERT Team Training \(video\)](#)

Topic	What I found
Hobby or lifestyle I picked	
Additional training	
Expenses	
Organizations to join	
My short-term goals	
My long-term goals	

Counselor Sign-Off

Your counselor signs your blue card or approves the badge in Scoutbook, and your unit records it. This sign-off is for your own records.

Counselor's Signature: Date Completed: **Official Scouting America Resources**

- [Emergency Preparedness merit badge pamphlet \(free PDF\)](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness requirements and resources \(Scouting.org\)](#)
- [All merit badges \(Scouting.org\)](#)

More help: [Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge Guide](#) (ScoutSmarts.com)