

Child Care Business Exchange

TN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES · CHILD CARE BUSINESS SERVICES

E - NEWS

Helpful Business and Management Tips

A leader is someone who helps improve the lives of other people or improve the system they live under.

~Sam Ervin, Jr.

Preparing for Disasters

Disasters can occur at anytime. Our communities across the state have experienced an unprecedented number of weather-related emergencies in recent years. When these emergencies occur, those most vulnerable are our youngest citizens, children under five years of age. Increasingly, this age group is separated from their parents during the hours when emergencies may occur because they are in a child care setting.

Being prepared is the KEY.

- Preparing for disasters can help reduce the loss of life when a disaster occurs. It can help reduce the damage to a child care facility, a family child care home, the equipment, and the supplies needed to provide child care after a disaster.
- Being prepared for a disaster can ensure that child care services are available for first responders following an event and parents who need child care and support for their children in the aftermath of a disaster. These events are frightening for adults, but they can be more traumatic for children.
- Child care is a fact of life for most families. If child care businesses are prepared for a disaster in a community, employees can return to work more quickly and help their employers return to productivity.

Your role as a child care provider, in case of disaster, is very important. All child care programs, regardless of their size or type, should develop and provide training on their perspective disaster plan. While the specifics of the plans for each program may be different, a plan is necessary.

Source of information: National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and Save the Children, Domestic Emergencies Unit.

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