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Having a Plan for When It Matters the Most

Growing up we all remember having to practice fire and tornado drills in school. We remember leaving our classrooms to go into the hallway, get away from windows or forming a single file line to head outside to safety in case of a fire. But what plans do we have if these things happen near our home?

Considering last week was National Fire Prevention Week and with Florida currently being hit with Hurricane Michael, I felt it would be helpful to recommend some tips on emergency preparedness.

Prevention plays a large part in the success of our plans as well. For example, make sure that about every six months you change the batteries in your smoke detectors and to test them regularly. Something else we often overlook in our time of technology is the ability to know where we are. Teaching our children to observe and recognize their surroundings is a useful lifelong skill. A great starting point is teaching our children to be able to know their road, county township and address at a young age. This is especially important when a child may have to call 911 if an adult cannot make it to the phone. They will need to be able to let dispatch know where help is needed.

The first step for prevention is to sit your family down and develop a plan. Be sure to discuss at least two different ways to safely exit your home in case of a fire. And while it may seem silly, practice the stop, drop, and roll method in case an article of clothing catches on fire. Other areas to talk about include putting together a disaster kit or “go bag” that contains essentials such as water, food, medical supplies and maybe even a map. Finally, be sure that you and your loved ones practice the plan you come up with to make sure everyone knows what to do in case the real emergency ever arises.

I hope you and your families have found these tips useful and I wish you all a very happy harvest!

For more information on preparing for a disaster, visit:

<https://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/prepare-my-family-disaster>

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.