Are you and your reptilians and/or amphibians prepared for a disaster?

If not, here’s how to get started

- What do you need packed before a disaster strikes?
  - Heat source, including one that doesn’t require electricity
  - Water
  - Food (i.e., new Repashy powdered options)
  - Hides
  - Travel cage/carrier
  - Identifying pictures
  - Caresheets
- If you’re not home, or able to get home is there someone else that can care for them?
  - Make sure you have discussed this with multiple people and fill out a card like the one below

[Image of a card with columns for Pets: Dogs, Cats, Birds, Other. Each has sections for Primary Contact and Alternate Contacts with space for Name and Telephone numbers.]

- Can you bring them to a family/friend’s house?
  - Have them get acquainted with your animals and their feeding behaviors ahead of time
- What are evacuation options?
  - Do you have travel cages?
  - Have you talked with local shelters to see if they can accommodate your pet?
What if you are stuck at home with no power, no generator?
- There are some options like Hand Warmers that can help with the heat, but you must be careful to make sure the animals don’t get burned
- Another slightly more expensive option is the Cryopak that is designed to keep a cage/carrier at about 70 degrees.
- You may need more than 1 for larger cages
- Test out your options before a disaster strikes; it will help lessen the stress on you and even more importantly the animals’
- Do you have care sheets for each species in case someone else must care for them?
  - Not yet, well you better get started! Generic care sheets can be found on the internet, but everyone does things a little differently to accommodate their care style
  - Make sure your animals can be easily identified as being yours
    - Take pictures showing off any unique pattern that they may have
    - Take pictures of you with your animal

You are the most important person in your pets’ life so as you are thinking about what they need, don’t forget yourself.

For more information on general preparedness visit www.scem.org or contact our office at 509-477-3046. If you have questions specifically related to preparing for your reptile/amphibian ask for Heather.

Photos courtesy of Heather Kitchen, and Hawley’s Homebred Reptiles