

July is National Safety Month

July is Bio-terrorism and Disaster Education & Awareness Month. The purpose of this month is clear: to raise awareness for emergency preparedness in the event that a disaster occurs. There are many different types of disasters, ranging from natural disasters like floods and hurricanes, to bio-terrorism disasters like chemical attacks. Regardless of the type of disaster, it is important to educate yourself and be prepared for anything. Throughout the month, we will provide you with education and information regarding bio-terrorism and other disasters to keep you up to date and informed.

Week 4: Preparing for different types of disasters pt. 2

The final week of National Bioterrorism and Disaster Awareness Month, will be a continuation from last week about how to prepare for different disasters. Last week, we discussed some basic ways you can prepare for a hurricane, volcano, and act of terrorism. This week we will discuss how to prepare for a wildfire, chemical emergency, and earthquake, using the [comprehensive guide](#) published by the American Red Cross.

Wildfire: While these may seem region-specific, they can across the U.S., more recently in the west. Because they spread quickly, it can be difficult to evacuate to safety with more aggressive wildfires. Listen to the local radio and television stations for updated emergency information including your safest escape route. Be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice, which includes having an emergency supply kit and non-perishable food and water handy. If possible, arrange for temporary housing at a friend or relative's home outside of the threatened area. Otherwise, identify nearby shelter sites and know the specific routes to get there.

Chemical Emergency: Either as a result of a chemical accident or bioterrorism, chemical emergencies can happen anywhere. While the majority of chemicals are natural and safe, under certain conditions, they can be poisonous and be harmful to your health. Many times, chemical accidents can happen within the home. To avoid a chemical accident, avoid mixing chemicals and always read and follow directions when using a new product. Common household products, such as ammonia and bleach, can give off toxic gas when combined. Many cleaning products should not be used in small spaces to prevent the inhalation of dangerous vapors. Dispose of unused chemicals properly. Improper disposal can result in harm to yourself or other members of your family, accidentally contaminate the water supply, or harm wildlife. If you are unsure of how to dispose of a particular chemical, call the environmental or recycling agency to learn the proper method.

Earthquake: 45 U.S. states and territories are at moderate to very high risk of experiencing earthquakes. Because of their widespread frequency, everyone should take the proper steps to prepare. Practice emergency drills with all members of your household: DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON. Remember that during an earthquake, you should take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture and hold on.

Our NIJ IIIA rated Bulletproof [Backpack Panel Inserts](#) are one of our most classic and versatile products. Simply slip in our lightweight panel insert into your bag or briefcase to make

it bulletproof to NIJ IIIA standards. Since it can be removed and switched to another bag with ease, it is ideal for those who go to school, travel frequently, go on business trips, and more. The panels come in a variety of sizes and colors, and can be designed custom to meet your specific bag's dimensions. The panel inserts are a great option for emergency supply kit and everyone in the family. Taking steps to prepare goes a long way, especially when faced with a disaster or emergency situation. Making an emergency supply kit, formulating emergency plans, planning evacuation routes, and preparing for alternate housing are all simple yet effective ways to invest in your safety.

Week 3: Preparing for different types of disasters

Last week, we discussed the different types of natural and human-caused disasters that can occur—some of which are happening right now in certain parts of the world. While some disasters are easier to plan for than others—like a hurricane if you live in Florida during hurricane season—others can be more difficult to predict. Contrary to common belief, no region is “safe” or entirely protected from a disaster. As we always reiterate: disasters and emergency situations can happen anywhere at any time. The best way to plan for these is to prepare for them. Because there are so many different types of disasters that can occur, it is important to cater your preparedness plan based on each specific type. The American Red Cross put together a [comprehensive guide](#) on how to prepare for and respond to a variety of disasters, which we will be following throughout the rest of the month. While we will be focusing specifically on preparation, the guide also includes information on how to stay safe both during and after the disaster occurs as well.

Hurricane: Talk with your family about what you will do if a hurricane strikes. Make a household evacuation plan that considers pets and any special needs. Ensure that you have access to NOAA radio broadcasts. Keep insurance & financial documents, and other valuables in a safe for ease of access during an emergency. Keep these in a place that is unlikely to be damaged if a hurricane causes flooding. Assemble an emergency preparedness kit for each member of the household if you have not already done so. Finally, be informed about your own community's hurricane risk and response plans.

Volcano: Again, talk about volcanoes with your family so that everyone knows what to do in case of a volcanic eruption. Discussing ahead of time helps to reduce fear and ensures that everyone is on the same page. Keep a battery-powered NOAA radio on hand, as well as a pair of goggles and dust mask for each member of your household in case of ashfall. In addition, talk with your insurance agent to find out what your homeowner's policy will cover in the event of a volcanic eruption.

Terrorism: As these events tend to be more sporadic and unpredictable, it is important to have a solid emergency communications plan with close family and friends. Establish a meeting place, assemble an emergency preparedness kit, and double check your workplace/school's emergency plan. Learning some basic first aid such as CPR is a useful preparation.

While you may not be able to ever fully predict when a disaster will strike, having the adequate tools and plan in place will give you preparedness and peace of mind. We offer a

variety of clothing that is discretely equipped with NIJ IIIA Bulletproof protection. As we head into the warmer summer months, our vests are a great option for lightweight defense. Our [Leather Biker Vest](#) is a classic product constructed from premium leather and lined with black nylon. It provides a discrete way to conceal a lightweight bulletproof liner, making it a perfect addition to an individual's protective gear for any season.

Week 2: Types of Disasters

As we continue throughout National Bioterrorism and Disaster Awareness Month, this week we will discuss different types of disasters. Though some regions are more prone to certain disasters than others, it is still important to be aware and educated on the various disasters that can occur—both natural and human-caused. There are many well-known disasters that have occurred in the past and caused many casualties and destruction: the 2010 Haiti Earthquake, the September 11th attacks, Hurricane Katrina, and more recently: the hurricanes in Puerto Rico, wildfires in California, and the Guatemalan & Hawaii volcanic eruptions. Whether you live within a disaster-prone region or not, no area is exempt from an emergency situation, so being prepared is the safest option.

Natural Disasters: natural events that cause great damage to a region or loss of life. These are large-scale events that have the potential to cause loss of life or property. Severe storms and floods are among the most common types of natural disasters reported in the United States.

- Earthquakes, tsunamis, tornados
- Hurricanes and tropical storms
- Wildfires
- Floods
- Droughts, extreme heat

Man-made Disasters: though they may not occur as frequently as natural disasters, man-made disasters are still a threat. Not only can they lead to loss of lives, but also the loss of security and feeling of well-being among affected individuals.

- Nuclear power plant and nuclear blasts
- Explosions
- Chemical threat and biological weapons (bioterrorism)
- Terror attacks
- Mass violence

Natural and man-made disasters alike affect thousands of people each year. Many times unexpected, they can leave entire communities in shock. Because of this, the most essential thing you can do is be prepared. This means taking the appropriate steps within your home, workplace, community, and greater region. Having an extra physical layer of protection on yourself is a great way to be safe and prepared for an emergency situation. The [Fortress Fleece Vest](#) is one of our newer products, a versatile option ideal for a variety of weather conditions. It comes in both women's and men's sizes with a four color options to choose from. The vest discretely offers NIJ IIIA Bulletproof protection within a high-quality and ultra-soft polyester fleece. The vest is a

great way to add a layer of physical protection to keep you safe and at ease in a variety of situations.

Week 1: What is Bio-terrorism?

What exactly is bio-terrorism?

- The deliberate release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs used to cause illness or death in people, animals, or plants.
- Terrorism involving the release of toxic biological agents
- The biggest threats of bioterrorism include: anthrax, plague, smallpox, and typhoid fever among others
- Some say it is more of a threat than nuclear attacks

What are the effects of bio-terrorism?

- Depending on the type of agent used, the effects can vary, but they are almost always severe
- Respiratory tract infection, diseases that affect the heart and circulatory system, compromised immune or nervous system, bleeding, severe illness, or even death

How to prepare for bio-terrorism

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has been preparing for bioterrorism, but you should still do your part to prepare on your own. In the event of an emergency, it is never guaranteed that help will be available in a timely manner.
- Consider compiling emergency supply kits for every member in your household and storing them in a safe place. These should include food, water, first-aid materials, blankets, flashlights, hygiene products, and other essential items.
- Purchase a gas mask or other type of protective mask, protective clothing, and cleaning agents like bleach and alcohol
- Keep an adequate amount of first-aid kits in your house, workplace, and car to ensure that you will be protected regardless of when a disaster strikes.
- At BulletBlocker, we offer a variety of backpacks that will meet the size and storage requirements for an emergency supply kit. Our Guardian and Everyday backpacks both offer NIJ IIIA Bulletproof protection and have the space available to create an efficient emergency supply kit for the workplace, household, or vehicle. Additionally, our [NIJ IIIA Bulletproof Survival Pack and Safety Kit](#) is a great option for an emergency bug out bag. The backpack has both a well-stocked first aid kit and basic survival supplies kit with a 5-year guaranteed shelf life. The first-aid kit contains enough supplies for 25 people, including bandages, gauze dressing pads, antiseptic towelettes, cold compresses,

and gloves, among other essentials. The basic survival supply kit includes water, blankets, a flashlight, crank radio, a whistle, tools, and tissues, among others. This bag will be an asset in any type of disaster, and will give you a greater peace of mind in your preparedness plans and overall safety. If your plans are late, contact the sender

- Store personal information in a safe place
- Shred receipts, credit offers, account statements, and expired credit cards
- Review your credit report once a year to be certain that it doesn't include accounts that you have not opened

Warning Signs of Identity Theft

- You don't get your bills or other mail when you usually do.
- There are withdrawals from your bank account that look unfamiliar
- You find unfamiliar accounts or charges on your credit report
- You receive a bill for a service you didn't use
- You get notice that your information was compromised by a data breach at a company where you have an account

As you can see, identity theft and fraud are serious crimes that anyone can fall victim to. Because of this, it is necessary to take the steps to better protect yourself and loved ones. We offer multiple products to store and keep your information protected from thieves. Our [Passport Wallet](#) is a great option for individuals looking for a way to keep their documents safe while traveling or on the go. The wallet features several micromesh slots to hold identification cards, credit cards, and your passport. It also has a document holder with RFID-blocking technology to prevent unauthorized access to personal information. In addition to having ample storage for your documents, currency, and credit cards, the wallet is also equipped with a NIJ IIIA bulletproof liner to use in the event of an emergency to protect yourself. We also offer portfolios and tactical organizers, all of which are NIJ IIA-level bulletproof and a perfect place to store and transport your important documentation.