

2012 Nebraska State Fair

This year we were fortunate to have the City of Grand Island and Hall County support judging our safety static exhibits at the State Fair by allowing the Director of Emergency Management spend the day evaluating entries. He had a few general comments to share with exhibitors.

- He was impressed with the thoroughness of most of the kits, but there were a few things that could be added to make them better and more useful when something more than a band-aid is needed.
 - Using the scoring rubric when preparing the kit is essential. Many kits lacked an inventory or intended use of the contents. This is not only a characteristic of a good first aid kit, but also a way for the judge to assess the youth's knowledge of how to use the contents in an emergency.
 - More absorbant materials. Some simple wounds, like head wounds, bleed substantially and few kits had adequate supplies.
 - Basic household items like a washcloth. A washcloth, even one that is not sterile, can be used in a variety of ways such as washing around a wound or an area that has come in contact with some chemicals or poison ivy. Washcloths can also be used to absorb blood or other fluids over the sterile dressing.
 - He noticed that not a single first aid or disaster kit included any type of feminine hygiene product. While not something most are comfortable talking about, they could be essential when a disaster kit is put to use or, again, they are designed for absorbency.
 - The kits, plans, posters, etc., did not seem practiced. He encouraged all exhibitors of disaster kits to challenge their family to actually use the contents of the kit for the time designated on a camping trip or a weekend at home. Is there really enough food, water, entertainment?
 - One of the rubric's criteria for the posters was practicing the escape routes. Only one or two posters included documentation of one or more practice sessions.