

**Webchat Moderator:** 请大家提交问题, 我们会保存你的问题在 18 日下午 4 点开始回答. Please submit your questions now. Your submission will be saved; Ms. Pan and Ms. Brady will start answering questions on Aug 18, 4pm.

**Webchat Moderator:** 本次聊天的主题是"紧急救助准备", 请提问与此主题相关的问题. We will only answer questions related to this given topic - "Emergency preparedness".

Economic Officer, Ashley Brady: Welcome to the U.S. Consulate General - Guangzhou's Emergency Preparedness Webchat

**Consular Officer Esther Pan:** Thank you to everyone for submitting your questions.

**Economic Officer, Ashley Brady:** Emergency Preparedness is the ability to be ready for any situation that may arise, from an electricity outage or a storm that cuts off the water supply to a virus pandemic

**Consular Officer Esther Pan:** Emergency preparedness is especially important in Guangzhou because South China has been at the center of many epidemics, including SARS and avian flu.

**Economic Officer Ashley Brady:** There are many things that you as an individual can do to prepare for emergencies. The most important things to consider are food supplies, water, shelter, and warmth.

**Consular Officer Esther Pan:** This winter's blizzard, the Sichuan earthquake, and the constant threat of typhoons all remind us of the damage that could be caused by natural disasters, and why it's important to be prepared.

**Iverson: What if we need to evacuate our home?**

**Consular Officer Esther Pan:** Good question, Iverson. If you need to evacuate, here are some steps to follow: Plan places to meet your family, both in and outside your neighborhood. Keep gas in your car in case you need to leave quickly. If you don't have a car, plan how you will use public transportation to leave if you have to. Learn alternate routes out of your area and take maps with you.

**Elizabeth Anderson: What are some things my family and I can do to be prepared for emergencies?**

**Economic Officer, Ashley Brady:** Thank you for your question, Elizabeth. Experts recommend having a variety of important supplies on hand, such as: a battery-powered or hand crank radio, flashlight, a basic first-aid kit, a whistle (to signal for help), dust masks, towelettes/sanitary wipes, can opener, wrench, pliers, and map of the local area. Most importantly, it is recommended that each household maintain at least two weeks' supply of food and water.

**Consular Officer Esther Pan:** Make sure everyone in your family knows who to call in an emergency. An out of town contact may be the best choice in case the city phone network goes

down. Make sure everyone knows the number, and has a phone card or extra coins to call.

**Sylvia Woodruff: What if I am at work when an emergency hits?**

**Economic Officer, Ashley Brady:** Before a situation arises, it is important to find out whether or not your workplace has an emergency evacuation plan. This includes determining what your employees should do if unable to return home and making sure that appropriate supplies are on hand. If you are at work when an emergency hits, it is best to follow this plan as practiced.

**Gary G Owen: What if my child is at school or daycare?**

**Consular Officer Esther Pan:** Check your child's school to make sure they have an emergency plan in place. Ask how they plan to get in touch with families in case of emergency. Make sure they have your current contact numbers. Ask if they store food, water, and other basic supplies.

**Shasha: What is avian flu?**

**Economic Officer, Ashley Brady:** Avian Flu is caused by the Influenza A that occurs naturally among birds. There are different variants of the virus; however, the variant of most concern is H5N1. While avian flu is mostly transmitted among poultry, there have been cases of bird-to-human, and human-to-human transmission.

**HSJ: How can we prevent spreading or catching avian flu?**

**Consular Officer Esther Pan:** Wash your hands frequently, and cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Try to stay away from others when you are sick so you don't infect them also.

**NETSANET: please can you inform me where can I ask my visa questions?**

**Consular Officer Esther Pan:** Many people are asking questions about U.S. visas. Unfortunately, since that is not the focus of this web chat, we will not be answering any visa questions today. Please check our website for more information:  
[http://guangzhou.usembassy-china.org.cn/visa\\_services.html](http://guangzhou.usembassy-china.org.cn/visa_services.html)

**Economic Officer, Ashley Brady:** Thank you all for your great questions and participation in today's Webchat. As a reminder, if an emergency situation were to occur, it is important to stay informed regarding local emergency response plans. Be sure to check local government websites and media sources, as well as US Consulate General-Guangzhou's website for the most up-to-date information.