



For Immediate Release  
Contact: Amber Burch, 647-8187

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### Area Students STEP Up Their Emergency Preparedness

Ithaca and Richland Center schools have partnered with Richland County Emergency Management to bring emergency planning into the classroom. Ithaca's 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Richland Center's 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were invited to participate in the program sponsored by Wisconsin Emergency Management and AT&T. The program is free to the schools and provides life-saving information to the students.

In the program, students learn about disasters and how they can help their family prepare for them. Students are provided the start to a family emergency plan that they can personalize for their home as well as a bag and flashlight to start a family emergency kit. Through these tools, students are able to help their families anticipate potential needs in an emergency and remove some of the fear and uncertainty that disasters often bring. Students are also able to ask questions and discuss their own experiences. Students are encouraged to continue this conversation with their families.

Students also discussed the various ways they can stay informed about severe weather heading their way including Nixle, a text-alert system that allows the Richland County Sheriff's Department to send messages to people regarding emergencies in their area. This free subscription takes only a few minutes to sign up for. You can find out more information about this on the Richland County Emergency Management website or by calling 647-8187.

Richland County Emergency Management always appreciates the ability to help residents and students prepare for emergency situations in their community. If you are interested in a presentation for your group, please contact Amber Burch, Richland County Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, at 647-8187.

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