Why is this Important?

- The goal of equipping students and their families with an emergency kit and a communications plan is important and can save lives.
- The learning goals result in strategies that prepare students and their families for large scale disasters (hurricanes, blizzards, floods) as well as small emergencies (house fires, electricity going out, etc).
- Armed with knowledge, 5th grade students can be agents of action in tough situations—helping adults deal with a situation as opposed to being afraid. Fulfilling this productive role can decrease anxiety levels and help the child recover from the incident faster.

What Do Teachers Say?

Over 20,000 students in New England participated in the STEP program over the last two years. Their teachers found the following aspects most appealing about the program:

- STEP requires only 1 hour of classroom time during the school year. Optional supplemental lessons are flexible enough to fit into a variety of subject areas such as math, language arts, social studies, and science.
- STEP was a beneficial expansion to already established school emergency safety plans.
- STEP lessons were created by teachers and designed with state and national standards.

What Learning Tools are Included?

- All students receive yellow back packs with “starter” emergency kits - flashlight with batteries, emergency blanket, whistle, snack bar, and bottle of water.
- Teachers receive a STEP instructional guide, “Adventures of the Disaster Dudes” DVD, and a Disaster Dudes Class Game
- Teachers receive copies of all the student handouts required to teach the base lesson.

To Get YOUR school involved in the STEP program, please contact:
Michelle Collins
Michelle.Collins@dhs.gov
617-956-7544
www.riema.ri.gov/step