



Family Disaster Planning

Four Steps to Safety

1. Be aware of the types of disaster most likely to happen in your home or community.

- ◆ Obtain information on how to prepare for each type of disaster that may occur, including severe weather, fire, power outage, terrorist attack, etc.
- ◆ Ask about and be aware of disaster plans at your work, school, day care, etc.
- ◆ Be aware of elderly or disabled members in your community or neighborhood who may need assistance in a disaster situation.

2. Create a disaster plan

- ◆ Discuss what to do in an evacuation; include how you will take care of your pets.
- ◆ Include how you will find each other. Pick a meeting spot in your neighborhood and outside your neighborhood. Make sure everyone knows the addresses and phone numbers of the designated meeting places. Choose a relative or friend out of state as a family contact. Make sure everyone knows this contact's phone number.
- ◆ Locate the main fuse box in your home, as well as the water service main and gas main. Teach all responsible family members how to turn these utilities off if you suspect the lines are damaged or you are instructed to do so (Note: if you turn the gas off, you will need a professional to turn it back on).
- ◆ Learn your community's warning signals. Keep a battery-powered radio on hand at all times.
- ◆ Learn where and how to contact any community resources for assistance. Ask about animal care in advance so you can plan accordingly – animals may not be allowed in some shelters due to health regulations.
- ◆ Meet with neighbors to consider how you can help each other, such as utilizing special skills (medical, technical) and caring for children if parents can't make it home.

3. Keep Disaster Supplies On Hand (See Checklist)

- ◆ The six basic supplies you should include are water, food, first aid supplies, clothes and bedding, tools and emergency supplies (such as flashlights and battery-operated radio), and any special items needed such as medications.

4. Practice and Maintain Your Plan

- ◆ Quiz your family members every 6 months to make sure they remember what to do
- ◆ Conduct fire and emergency drills
- ◆ Replaced stored water every 3 months and food every 6 months
- ◆ Test and recharge your fire extinguisher according to manufacturer's instructions
- ◆ Test smoke detectors monthly and change batteries at least once a year