



Office Of Emergency Services

FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services (i.e. water, gas, electricity or telephones) were cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away.

Families can and do cope with disasters by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Follow the steps listed in this section to create your family's disaster plan. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility.

4 STEPS TO SAFETY

Step 1

Find out What Could Happen to You

Contact Emergency Services or your local Red Cross Chapter and be prepared to take notes: Ask what types of disasters are likely to happen, and request information on how to prepare for each disaster.

Learn about your community's warning signals: what they sound like and what you should do when you hear them.

Ask about animal care after a disaster. Animals may not be allowed inside emergency shelters due to health regulations.

Find out how to help elderly or disabled persons if needed.

Next, find out about the disaster plans at your workplace, your children's school or daycare center and other places where your family spends time.

Step 2

Create a Disaster Plan

Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster. Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather and earthquakes to children. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.

Discuss the types of disaster that are most likely to happen. Explain what to do in each case.

Pick two places to meet:

1. Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
2. Outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.

Ask an out-of-state friend to be your "family contact". After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact's phone number. Discuss what to do in an evacuation. Plan how to take care of your pets.

Fill out, copy and distribute to all family members

Family Disaster Plan	
Emergency Meeting Place	
Meeting Place	Phone
Address	
Family Contact	
Phone ()	Phone ()

Step 3

Complete This Checklist

Post emergency telephone numbers by phones (fire, police, ambulance, etc.)

Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local Emergency Medical services number for emergency help.

Show each family member how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.

Check if you have adequate insurance coverage.

Teach each family member how to use the fire extinguisher (ABC type), and show them where it is kept.

Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.

Conduct a home hazard hunt.

Stock emergency supplies and assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit.

Take a Red Cross first aid and CPR class.

Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room.

Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

Step 4

Practice and Maintain Your Plan

Quiz your kids every six months so they remember what to do.

Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.

Year: _____ Drill Date _____

Replace stored water every three months and stored food every six months.

Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions.

Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

Jan. ☐ July ☐

Feb. ☐ Aug. ☐

Mar. ☐ Sept. ☐

Apr. ☐ Oct. ☐

May ☐ Nov. ☐

June ☐ Dec. ☐

Change batteries in _____ each year.
(month)