Create a Family Emergency Plan

Write down a plan for your household to know what to expect and how to protect your family. Be ready to stay safe and healthy in an emergency.

Learn
- Know the danger signs for local threats.
- Identify safe places to shelter in your home.
- Know different ways to escape if your home is unsafe.
- Decide on a safe place to go near your home, and another out of town in case your neighborhood is not safe.
- Know how to turn off the water and gas valves and electricity switch if possible in your home.
- Identify different ways to get where you need to if your main roads or bus lines are closed.

Prepare
- Keep up maintenance in your home and test smoke alarms.
- Keep your body healthy, including vaccinations and other needs.
- Register with your emergency management if you have special needs.
- Consider a bank, cash card, or other way to access your funds in an emergency.
- Protect valuables in your home that may be damaged in an emergency.

Communicate
- List family, friends and neighbors who will look out for you, particularly if you need special assistance.
- Make a list of people you can call or check on in an emergency.
- Create an Emergency Contact Card for each member of your household.

Before a storm
- Move items that could be blown/fall/flooded or otherwise damaged in a storm.
- Make sure your Home Emergency Kit is up to date.
- Listen for public announcements for updates about the storm.

After a storm
- Follow instructions from emergency responders and your family plan on where to go in case you are separated.
- If phone lines are busy, a text is more likely to go through.
- Avoid storm debris and floodwaters; they could hurt you.
- Seek help for any physical or emotional needs you may experience.
Build a Home Emergency Kit

Get your family ready for an emergency by keeping an emergency kit on hand, or multiple kits for home and away. Having supplies prepared in advance will save you time and make sure you have key tools to be safe and healthy in an emergency.

**Basic supplies**
- 3-day supply of water and non-perishable food
- Bowl, utensils and can opener as needed
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Cell phone charger or crank/solar charger
- Multitool (Swiss Army knife), wrench or pliers
- First aid kit (antibiotic ointment, bandaids, eye wash solution, thermometer, pain reliever, scissors, tweezers, etc.)
- Dust mask, duct tape, sturdy shoes
- Moist towelettes, feminine supplies, garbage bags, chlorine bleach, hand sanitizer
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in waterproof container
- Whistle to signal for help
- Spare blanket and change of clothes
- Paper and pencil

**Health considerations**
- 3-day supply of medications
- Copy of prescriptions and dosage
- Spare eyeglasses, hearing aids and batteries
- Wheelchair battery, folding wheelchair or cane
- List any assistive devices, medical alert tags, allergies and other special needs you have.
- Communication or behavior needs

**Emergency documents to safeguard**
- Family records and documentation
- Wills, deeds, SSN, bank account
- Health insurance/Medicare information
- Cash or traveler’s checks

**Infants and Children**
- Formula, bottle, diapers, etc.
- Books, games and activities
- Familiar objects to reduce stress

**Other considerations**
- Will your housing or residential status affect your access to resources?
- Do you have pets or assistant animals?
- Are there additional seasonal needs?

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