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Consider Individual Needs

Tailor your preparedness plan to the specific needs of each person in your household. Are there children to look after or members with medical needs? Are there dietary concerns or language barriers?

For children:

- Teach them the types of emergencies that can happen in your area and warning signs to look out for.
- Find out their school/day care emergency plan and keep your contact information updated.

If you have access and functional needs:

- Inform your support network where you keep your emergency supply kit and what your plans are.
- Speak to your health care provider about preparing for situations where you can't use your medical equipment.
- If you have a communication disability, make sure your emergency information notes the best way to communicate with you.

Plan for Pets!

Research pet-friendly shelters or make plans to have pets stay with an out-of-town contact. Never leave your pet tied up outside during a disaster. For more pet emergency information, visit: **www.aspca.org**



Resources

For more on emergency planning, visit:

- **Ready.gov:** www.ready.gov
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Emergency Preparedness and Response:** www.cdc.gov/emergency
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** www.fema.gov

To find open emergency shelters, visit:

- **American Red Cross:** www.redcross.org/get-help.html
- **DisasterAssistance.gov:** www.disasterassistance.gov/information/immediate-needs/emergency-shelter

For more family preparedness tips, contact your local emergency management agency. Visit **www.fema.gov/locations** to find an office in your area.



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PREPARING YOUR FAMILY FOR DISASTER



Keep your loved ones safe by making family preparedness planning a priority now.

For more information on planning for disaster, visit: www.ready.gov

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Plan It Out

Being prepared goes a long way in keeping you and your family safe in a disaster or emergency. Be sure to include all family members in preparedness planning so everyone can feel confident every step of the way.

The following questions will help you get started:

1. **How will we be notified of emergencies and disasters?**
2. **What is our shelter plan?**
3. **What is our evacuation plan?**
4. **What is our family communication plan?**

Disasters can be unpredictable and may come at a time when you and your family are not together. Know what types of disasters can affect your area and how you will reconnect if separated.

Emergency Alerts & Notifications

During emergencies, officials may send Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to provide the public with essential information quickly. Check with your service provider to make sure your device is WEA-capable.



Visit www.ready.gov/alerts for more information on emergency alerts.

Gather Supplies

You may not be able to get the supplies you need once disaster strikes. Keep an emergency supply kit stocked and ready to go so you aren't left scrambling.

- ☐ Nonperishable food and water for several days (one gallon of water per person per day)
- ☐ Battery-powered/hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio
- ☐ First aid kit and medication
- ☐ Cell phone charger or backup battery
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ Dust mask to filter contaminated air, plastic sheeting, and duct tape to seal a room
- ☐ Sanitation/hygiene items (garbage bags, moist towelettes, toilet paper)



What's the difference between an emergency supply kit and a go-bag?

A **go-bag** contains essential items you will need in case you have to leave home quickly. Apart from food and water, it should include cash and change, extra keys to your home/car, medications you're taking, and any important personal documents.

Make sure each family member has a go-bag specific to their needs (e.g., a child's go-bag may contain a toy/coloring supplies).

Practice, Practice, Practice!

Make copies of your family communication plan for all household members and place it in a central part of your home. Now it's time to put it into practice!

- → Practice calling/texting each other and your out-of-town contact. Keep messages short and to-the-point (e.g., "I'm safe. At school.").
- → Rehearse evacuating and gathering at designated meeting places, both indoor and outdoor. Discuss routes and modes of transport each person will use to travel to a meeting place out of town.
- → Make sure all family members, especially children, know how to dial **911**.
- → Challenge each other to recite important phone numbers from memory, so you don't need to rely on saved contact lists.
- → Have regular conversations on what to do during an emergency and review your plan on a yearly basis, or whenever your information changes.



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