



Regardless of the emergency situation or hazard anticipated, one of the best things you can do is to make a plan and prepare your family beforehand.

## Create a Family Disaster Plan

- **Gather information.**
  - What disasters or hazards are most likely in your community? For your home?
  - How would you be warned?
  - How should you prepare for each?
- **Know the warning signals for your area.**
  - Learn the warning systems for your community.
  - Be sure you can hear or see the appropriate warning from your home.
- **Obtain insurance for your family and home.**
  - Check your homeowners insurance.
  - Get additional coverage for situations that may not be covered.
- **Stay alert for emergency broadcasts.**
  - Emergency Alert System broadcasts (radio, TV)
  - NOAA weather radio alerts
  - News sources – radio, television, internet
- **Choose a post-hazard meeting place for your family.**
  - A safe distance from your home for sudden emergencies (e.g., fire).
  - Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
  - Learn where area evacuation shelters are located.
- **Make a family communication plan.**
  - Know how you will contact each other if you are at work, school or other location.
  - Have an out-of-state friend or relative serve as an emergency contact for everyone to call.
  - Keep a list of emergency phone numbers, including neighborhood contacts.
  - Give emergency numbers to all family members and post by every phone.
- **Make a family emergency supply kit.**
  - You may need to survive on your own temporarily until you can get assistance.
  - Prepare a kit with 3 or more days of supplies (food, water, clothing).
- **Share the above information with your family.**
  - Meet with all members of your household.
  - Discuss the types of hazards that could occur.
  - Discuss your family's plan.
  - Practice your plans.

- **Plan how you and your neighbors could work together during a disaster.**
  - Create a neighborhood communication plan.
  - Help neighbors who have special needs, such as elderly or disabled persons.
  - Make plans for child care in case parents cannot get home.
  - Learn plans for your work, children's schools, or other locations.
- **Don't forget to include plans for your pets.**

## Family Emergency Plan Situations

- **Shelter-in-place**
  - Take immediate shelter wherever you are – home, work, school or in between – rather than entering into a hazardous situation.
  - Used for situations such as severe storms, winter weather, biological emergencies.
  - Time will vary; few hours to several days.
- **Evacuation**
  - Leaving your current location and seeking shelter at a safer place.
  - For situations such as flood or chemical accidents.
  - Time will vary; days, weeks - it may be never for some situations (e.g., flood).

## For More Information

### Ready America (FEMA)

Guidebook to help you prepare for emergency situations.  
[www.ready.gov/america/index.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/index.html)

### National Weather Service

Current hazardous weather threats for your location.  
<http://www.weather.gov/>

NOAA Radio Channels for your Area

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrbro.htm>

### Safe and Well Website (American Red Cross)

Online registry to let family members know you are safe after a disaster situation.  
<http://disastersafe.redcross.org>

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# FAMILY EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

General Preparedness

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Police</b>                             | <b>Insurance Agent</b>   |
| <b>Fire</b>                               | <b>Homeowner's Insurance Policy</b><br>Company:<br>Policy Number:      |
| <b>Ambulance</b>                          | <b>Flood Insurance Policy</b><br>Company:<br>Policy Number:            |
| <b>County Emergency Management Office</b> | <b>Wind and/or Hail Insurance Policy</b><br>Company:<br>Policy Number: |
| <b>Neighbors</b>                          | <b>Disaster Hotline</b>  |
| <b>Out of State Contact</b>               | <b>Cooperative Extension Service</b>                                   |
| <b>American Red Cross</b>                 | <b>Veterinarian</b>  |
| <b>Power Company</b>                      | <b>Animal Shelter or Pet Friendly Hotel</b>                            |
| <b>Gas Company</b>                        |  |
| <b>Water Company</b>                      |  |
| <b>County Public Health Department</b>    |  |
| <b>Poison Control Center</b>              |  |
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