

Create Family Disaster Plan

Get a Plan! Steps to Creating a Family Disaster Plan

- Buy an NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio and test it weekly (Wednesdays, 10 am-noon).
- Discuss the types of disasters that could affect the family.
- Determine if the home is located in a storm surge evacuation zone.
- Identify a safe room in your home or a neighbor's home.
- Plan escape routes from your home and places to meet.
- Know the location of a safe community shelter near your home.
- Have an out-of-state family member or friend you can stay with if necessary.
- Have an emergency plan for your pets.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phone and make sure children know how/when to call 9-1-1.
- Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners' insurance.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a disaster supply kit that should include:
 - A three-day supply of food and water, a change of clothing, a blanket or sleeping bag for each person, and a first aid kit that includes medications.
 - Emergency tools: Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries, work gloves, and fire extinguisher.
 - Important family documents in a fire and waterproof container, an extra set of keys, credit card, and cash.
- Replace batteries in your smoke detector and in your NOAA Weather Radio in the spring and fall when Daylight Saving Time changes.
- Take first aid, CPR, and disaster preparedness classes through your local American Red Cross Chapter.

Persons with disabilities often require additional assistance when preparing for a disaster. Here is a short list of tips for those with special needs:

- Establish a personal support network of friends, family, or neighbors who can assist you and get you to a safe place.
- Place emergency instructions on the refrigerator that include information on your medications, dosage amounts, necessary equipment, and emergency contacts.

- Register with local emergency management and fire departments.
- Carry with you at all times emergency health information. A medical alert tag or bracelet to identify your disability can prove helpful.
- Keep a flashlight, bell, or whistle nearby to signal your whereabouts to others.
- Have an extra supply of medication in your emergency kit.