



**Taking it one step  
at a time.**

# FAMILY DISASTER PLANNING



***Where will you and your family be when disaster strikes? What would you do if basic services - water, gas, electricity, and telephones - were cut off for long periods?***

Whether faced with a family emergency or a regional disaster, the effort you've put into family preparedness and disaster planning will play a large role in how well you "survive" the event. The following steps can help you enhance your family's preparedness.

## ❶ IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS

Visit the library, contact the American Red Cross or your local Emergency Manager, and/or log on to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Web site at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) to learn about the hazards in your area.

- Winter Storm
- Flood
- Wind Storm
- Hazardous Material Spill
- Earthquake
- Wildfire
- Landslide

## ❷ LEARN HOW THE HAZARDS CAN IMPACT YOUR FAMILY

Assess what the consequences might be for your family when disaster strikes. Consider the time of day, the day of the week, and the time of year.

- Injury
- Isolation
- Phone Outage
- Property Damage
- Separation
- Power Outage
- Water Outage

## ❸ IDENTIFY STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO MINIMIZE OR PREVENT THE HAZARD IMPACTS

Determine procedures and practices you can develop/implement to enhance your disaster resistance. Consult with the Red Cross, your local Emergency Manager, and/or FEMA for assistance.

- Plans for home escape, family communication, and neighborhood evacuation
- Procedures for drop, cover, and hold on; shelter in-place; and utility shutoff
- Training in CPR, basic first aid, and use of a fire extinguisher
- Hazard-resistant construction materials
- Flood-proofing, landscaping, and site drainage practices
- Non-structural earthquake hazard mitigation techniques
- Warning system installation (e.g., smoke detectors)
- Comprehensive hazard insurance for your home and personal property (e.g., earthquake, fire and flood)
- Neighborhood disaster resource inventory

#### **4 IDENTIFY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES YOU'LL NEED TO HELP SURVIVE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES**

- Clothing and Bedding
- First Aid Supplies
- Food and Water
- Light Sources (candles, flashlights, and/or light sticks)
- Prescription and Non-prescription Medicines
- Sanitation Supplies
- Special Items (baby supplies, important family documents, pet food, etc.)
- Tools, Equipment, and Supplies (batteries, fire extinguisher, manual can opener, matches, money, utensils, etc)

#### **5 IDENTIFY THE EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES YOU ALREADY HAVE IN PLACE**

- Camping Gear (sleeping bags, cooking equipment, utensils, etc.)
- Fire Escape Plan
- Extra Food and Water
- First Aid Kit

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#### **6 IDENTIFY YOUR SHORTFALLS**

What equipment, supplies, procedures, and plans do you need to complete your family preparedness effort?

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#### **7 DEVELOP A PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE SHORTFALLS**

Identify short and long term objectives. For the short term, focus on items that are low cost or easy to implement and that have high payoff. Some suggestions include:

- Install hazard warning systems such as smoke detectors.
- Develop fire escape and neighborhood evacuation plans.
- Develop a simple family communications plan such as a wallet card with common numbers to call and important policy numbers.
- Develop procedures for drop, cover, and hold on; utility shutoff; and shelter in-place procedures.
- Attend CPR, basic first aid, and fire extinguisher training.
- Begin or expand your disaster supplies kit. Start with basic necessities such as food, water, light sources, first aid supplies, clothing, and bedding.
- Host a neighborhood meeting to exchange preparedness information and ideas.

For the long term, focus on higher cost items or those that are more difficult to implement. These items might include:

- Special tools and equipment
- Expanded insurance coverage
- Building retrofitting
- Structural earthquake mitigation
- Drainage improvements

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#### **8 TRAIN AND MAINTAIN**

- Conduct fire evacuation drills
- Test/recharge fire extinguishers
- Practice procedures for drop, cover, and hold on; shelter in-place; and utility shutoff
- Replace stored food, medicines, and water before the expiration date
- Test smoke detectors
- Test communications plan