

Individual and Family Disaster Planning Checklist

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	Contact the local Red Cross to learn what disasters are most likely to occur. Learn what to do in each case.
	Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster. Explain the dangers of fire; severe weather, and earthquakes to children. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.
	Pick two places to meet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire. 2. Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.
	Ask an out-of-state friend to be your "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know the contact number.
	Discuss what to do in an evacuation. Plan how to take care of your pets.
	Purchase a battery operated radio.
	Post emergency numbers by phone (fire, police, ambulance, etc.).
	Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1 for emergency help.
	Show each family member how and when to turn off the utilities (water, gas, electricity) at the main switches.
	Check if you have adequate insurance coverage. Remember flood and earthquake coverage is in addition to standard coverage.
	Train each family member how to use the fire extinguisher (ABC type), and show them where it's kept.
	Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms. Change the batteries when the time changes.
	Stock emergency supplies and assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit.
	Take a Red Cross first aid and CPR class.
	Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room.
	Find the safe places in your home for each type of disaster.
	Quiz your kids every six months when the time changes.
	Replace stored water and food every six months when the time changes.
	Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacture's instructions.
	Test your smoke detectors monthly.

For additional information and checklists for disaster supplies, order *Are You Ready?* by calling FEMA's distribution center at (800) 480-2520. *Are You Ready?* is available in English and Spanish.