

# Home Emergency Preparedness



**Checklists To Help Protect  
Your Home and Family**



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**Emergency Situations do happen.** No one can prevent natural disasters and all man-made disasters. But we can prepare for them and make injuries and damages less likely. At the very least, preparation and planning take much of the worry and panic out of hazards and disaster situations. You will always do better if you are prepared to face a tough situation calmly.

**Preparedness is everyone's job.** Each individual must be ready to act on their own whether essential services from local authorities or first aid responders are available or not. Individuals, families and organizations should have a plan of action in place to handle any emergency that may occur.

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# ACTION CHECKLIST FOR ALL HOME EMERGENCIES

## Step 1. Assess your risks

Find out which disasters (or potential hazards) could possibly occur in your home and community.

### Natural Disasters

- Earthquakes
- Wild Land Fires
- Flash Flooding / Dam Break
- Thunderstorms / Lightning
- Tornadoes
- Hurricanes
- Winter Storms / Extreme Cold Temperatures

### Potential Hazards

- Pandemic Influenza
- West Nile Virus
- Avian Influenza
- Explosions/Bomb Threats
- Radiological Weapons
- Biological / Chemical Terrorism
- Hazardous Chemicals
- Home Fires
- Burglary
- Home Injuries
- Wildlife Threats

## Step 2. Find out how you will be warned for each potential disaster

Learn about your community's warning signals, what they sound like and what you should do when you hear them.

Fire or police department warning procedures could include:

- "All-Call" telephoning – an automated system for sending recorded messages, sometimes called "reversed 9-1-1."
- Emergency Alert System (EAS) broadcasts on the radio and television.
- Outdoor warning sirens or horns.
- News media sources – radio, television and cable.
- NOAA Weather Radio alerts.
- Residential route alerting, messages announced to neighborhoods from vehicles equipped with public address systems.

**★** *For individual disasters or hazards, reference the attached checklists beginning on page 9 to learn or indicate how you will be warned.*


### **Step 3. Learn safety tips to stay as safe as possible**

#### **Family Household Preparedness**

Work with your family/household to discuss the steps each needs to take to be ready if a disaster or disasters happen. Find out about the disaster plans at your work place, your children's school or day care center and/or other places where your family spends time. Ask about animal care during and after a disaster. Animals other than service animals may not be allowed inside emergency shelters. Prepare a list of facilities that could shelter your pets in an emergency.

#### **Neighborhood Preparedness**

Have a neighborhood meeting to identify neighbors who are elderly or have special needs. Assist them in the development of a personal disaster plan and disaster supplies kit, if requested.

 ***For individual disasters or hazards, reference the attached checklists beginning on page 9 to learn or indicate other safety tips to stay as safe as possible.***

During extended power outages and downed power lines, disconnect appliances and turn off all but one light so there won't be damage or an overload when power comes back. The one light will alert you when you have power. Beware of fire hazards. Keep candles in holders that can't tip over, away from flammables. Don't use a gas stove for heat. Stay away from downed power lines; assume they're alive and report them to the power company, the police or fire department.

### **Step 4. Plan for an evaluation and pick two places to meet**

Use a blank sheet of paper to draw floor plans of your home. Show the location of:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Doors               | <input type="radio"/> Fire extinguisher           | <input type="radio"/> Utility shut-off points: |
| <input type="radio"/> Windows             | <input type="radio"/> Smoke alarms                | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical            |
| <input type="radio"/> Stairways           | <input type="radio"/> Your disaster supplies kit  | <input type="checkbox"/> Gas / Wrench          |
| <input type="radio"/> Large furniture     | <input type="radio"/> First-aid kits              | <input type="checkbox"/> Main water valve      |
| <input type="radio"/> Collapsible ladders | <input type="radio"/> Manual garage door override |  |

Show important points outside such as garages, patios, stairways, elevators, driveways and porches. Indicate at least two escape routes from each room and mark the place outside of the home where household members should meet in case of fire.

1. Meeting place right outside your home \_\_\_\_\_
2. Meeting place outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.  
Everyone must know the address and phone number

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

## 911

Fire \_\_\_\_\_

Police \_\_\_\_\_

Family Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Family Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Poison Control \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Service for Shut-offs \_\_\_\_\_

### Utility Companies:

Gas \_\_\_\_\_

Electric \_\_\_\_\_

Water \_\_\_\_\_

### *Other Important Phone Numbers*

#### Situational Emergencies:

Road Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Crisis Hotline \_\_\_\_\_

Suicide Hotline \_\_\_\_\_

#### Health Issues:

Public Health \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's Offices \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pet Veterinarian \_\_\_\_\_

Local Animal Shelter \_\_\_\_\_



### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Family \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Friends \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Family \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Friends \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Earthquakes

- Discuss how you will be warned**

- Learn safety tips to stay as safe as possible**

If you are indoors, move away from windows, mirrors, chimneys or shelves that could fall over. Get under strong furniture or to an inside corner of the building. If you're outside, move into an open area away from tall buildings, power poles, trees or anything that could fall on you.

*Other tips?*

- Prepare your home - things to do / items needed**

Secure any gas appliances to prevent broken gas lines and fires. Store heavy objects near the ground and locate beds away from windows. Hang pictures and mirrors away from beds. Consider bolting tall heavy pieces to the wall and securing large breakable objects so they can't move. Put safety latches on your cabinets.

*And?*



## Wild Land Fires

### Discuss how you will be warned

Some wild land fires can be seen approaching. Be alert of advanced warnings (including text alerts) from local TV or radio stations.

### Learn safety tips to stay as safe as possible

Abide by posted fire restrictions.

*Other tips?*

### Prepare your home - things to do / items needed

Use fire-resistant building materials and landscaping techniques to maintain your defensible space. Keep trees and shrubs properly thinned and pruned and grass and weeds mowed. Keep roof and gutters clear of debris and make sure trash and debris accumulations are removed. Check attic, roof, eaves and foundation vents to be sure they are screened and in good condition. Make sure stilt foundations and decks are enclosed, screened and walled up. Make sure an outdoor water supply is available, complete with a hose and nozzle that can reach all parts of the house. Ensure there is an easily accessible tool storage area with rakes, hoes, axes and shovels for use in case of fire. Ensure road signs, name and house number is posted, easily visible and made of non-flammable materials. Have fire extinguishers in place.

*And?*



## Pandemic Influenza Threats

### Discuss how you will be warned

Prepare for influenza pandemic by knowing the magnitude of what can happen during a pandemic outbreak. Influenza pandemics differ from other health threats because a pandemic lasts longer than most health emergencies and includes “waves” of influenza activity. Also, resources in many locations could be limited, depending on the severity and spread of the illness. Once a potential pandemic strain of influenza virus is identified, it takes several months before a vaccine is available. If a pandemic occurs, the U.S. government will work with partner groups to make recommendations for the early use of available vaccines.

### Learn safety tips to stay as safe as possible

Limit the spread of germs and prevent infection.

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water and model the correct behavior
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues, and be sure to model that behavior
- Stay away from others as much as possible, if they are sick.  
Stay home from work and school if sick.

### ***Other Tips?***

### ***Prepare your home - things to do / items needed***

- Have an extra supply of any regular prescription drugs.
- Have nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, anti-diarrhea medication, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes and vitamins.

### ***And?***





## West Nile Virus Threats

### Discuss how you will be warned

West Nile Virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. People with mild infections either have no signs or display signs of a mild illness such as headache, body ache, swollen lymph glands, a mild rash and fever before fully recovering. Those with more severe infections may experience high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions and paralysis. The symptoms will begin to appear 3 to 15 days after being bitten. Those most at risk are people over 50 years of age and those with weaker immune systems.

### Learn safety tips to stay as safe as possible

Stay indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants while outdoors. Apply insect repellent that contains DEET. Follow directions carefully.

#### *Other Tips?*

### Prepare your home - things to do / items needed

Drain all standing water on your property – ponds, ditches, hubcaps, boats, clogged rain gutters, etc. Change water in birdbaths and wading pools weekly. Stock ornamental ponds and fountains with fish that eat mosquito larvae. Ensure that window and door screens are in proper repair.

#### *And?*