

# Home Emergency Preparedness



## Customizable Educational Campaign

The Home Emergency Preparedness Customizable Educational Campaign begins with Educational Materials and Activities for the ten basic steps that apply to all Natural Disasters and Potential Hazards. Starting with Month 10, more detail can be given about the specific risks that pertain to your community or your employee's homes, based on an assessment of risks. Each month, the Educational Campaign will involve electronically distributing visually appealing and pertinent information to your employees for sharing with family members. You will also receive posters and other visual aids to help highlight the content covered during each promotional period. Depending on the level of involvement, some steps can be combined; for example, Month 9 includes Step 9 and Step 10.

### (Month 1) Step 1. Assess your risks

#### *Activity Ideas:*

- Complete a Home Emergency Preparedness Test
- Distribute Home Emergency Preparedness Checklist Booklets
- Distribute Home Emergency Preparedness Planning and Organizing Packets

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

#### *Activity Idea:*

- Complete a Home Warning Test

### (Month 3) Step 3. Learn safety tips to stay as safe as possible

#### *Activity Ideas:*

- Go through a Safety Tips Checklist
- Promote Family/Household Preparedness
  - Family/household/pets
  - Disaster plans at your work place, your children's school or day care
  - Other places your family spends time
  - Complete a Family/Household Preparedness Checklist

### (Month 3) Step 3. Learn safety tips to stay as safe as possible (*continued*)

- Promote Neighborhood Preparedness
  - Neighbors
  - Elderly
  - Others with special needs
  - Complete a Neighborhood Preparedness Checklist

### (Month 4) Step 4. Plan for an evacuation and pick two places to meet

#### *Activity Ideas:*

- Draw a floor plan of your home
- Map out a meeting place

### (Month 5) Step 5. Develop a communication plan

#### *Activity Ideas:*

- Distribute and Complete Contact Information Cards
- Distribute and Complete Emergency Phone Number Magnets

### (Month 6) Step 6. Prepare to meet basic needs

#### *Activity Idea:*

- Distribute Emergency Response Starter Kits

# Home Emergency Preparedness Educational Campaign

## **(Month 7) Step 7. Prepare vital personal information & have extra cash on hand**

### *Activity Idea:*

- Distribute and Complete Home Emergency Preparedness Document Packets

## **(Month 8) Step 8. Prepare your home from disasters**

### *Activity Idea:*

- Complete a Home Preparedness Checklist

## **(Month 9) Step 9. Practice and maintain your plan**

### *Activity Idea:*

- Distribute "I Have A Plan" buttons

## **(Month 9) Step 10. Examine volunteer opportunities in your community; choose an agency to volunteer with and receive initial training.**

### *Activity Idea:*

- Set up CERT trainings

## **(Month 10) Natural Disaster**

- Earthquakes

## **(Month 11) Natural Disaster**

- Wild Land Fires

## **(Month 12) Natural Disaster**

- Flash Flooding/Dam Break

## **(Month 13) Natural Disaster**

- Thunderstorms/Lighting

## **(Month 14) Natural Disaster**

- Tornadoes

## **(Month 15) Natural Disaster**

- Hurricanes

## **(Month 16) Natural Disaster**

- Winter Storms/Extreme Cold Temperatures

## **(Month 17) Potential Hazard**

- Pandemic Influenza

## **(Month 18) Potential Hazard**

- West Nile Virus

## **(Month 19) Potential Hazard**

- Avian Influenza

## **(Month 20) Potential Hazard**

- Explosions/Bomb Threats

## **(Month 21) Potential Hazard**

- Radiological Weapons

## **(Month 22) Potential Hazard**

- Biological/Chemical Terrorism

## **(Month 23) Potential Hazard**

- Hazardous Chemicals

## **(Month 24) Potential Hazard**

- Home Fires

## **(Month 25) Potential Hazard**

- Burglary

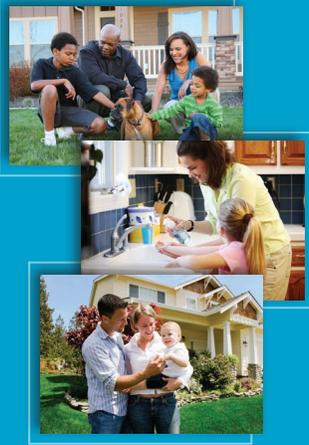
## **(Month 26) Potential Hazard**

- Home Injuries

## **(Month 27) Potential Hazard**

- Wildlife Threats

# Home Emergency Preparedness



## ***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.

## **Step 1. Assess Your Risks**

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

### **Natural Disasters**

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

### **Potential Hazards**

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

## Home Emergency Preparedness Test

1. Do you have a functional emergency radio to receive emergency information?  YES  NO
2. If your family had to evacuate your home, have you identified a meeting place?  YES  NO
3. In case of evacuation, does your family have means to communicate?  YES  NO
4. Do you have a list of friends and family, boarding kennels or public evacuation shelters that are willing to take pets if you are evacuated?  YES  NO
5. Have you established an out-of-state contact?  YES  NO

*If an emergency lasted for three days (72 hours) before help was available to you and your family...*

6. Would you have sufficient food?  YES  NO
7. Would you have the means to cook food without gas and electricity?  YES  NO
8. Would you have sufficient water for drinking, cooking and sanitary needs?  YES  NO
9. If you need medications, do you have a month's supply on hand?  YES  NO
10. Do you have access to a 72-hour evacuation kit?  YES  NO
11. Do you have a plan for toilet facilities if there is extended water storage?  YES  NO
12. Without electricity and gas, do you have a way to heat at least part of your house?  YES  NO
13. If power was out for an extended period, or no fuel or cell phones and stores were unavailable:
  - Do you have extra batteries?  YES  NO
  - Do you have at least a half tank of gas in your car?  YES  NO
14. Do you have a first aid kit in your home and each car?  YES  NO
15. Do you have duplicate keys and copies of important insurance and other papers?  YES  NO
16. Do you have emergency cash on hand? (should ATMs not work and banks are closed)  YES  NO
17. Do you have work gloves and some tools for minor rescue and clean up?  YES  NO
18. Do you have access to an operational flashlight in every occupied bedroom? (use of candles is not recommended unless you are sure there is no leaking gas)  YES  NO
19. Do you have heavy objects hanging over beds that can fall during an earthquake?  YES  NO
20. Do you keep shoes near your bed to protect your feet against broken glass?  YES  NO
21. Has your family rehearsed fire escape routes from your home?  YES  NO
22. Do you have working smoke alarms in the proper places to warn you of fire?  YES  NO
23. In case of a minor fire, do you have a fire extinguisher that you know how to use?  YES  NO
24. Do you know where the main gas shut-off valve to your house is located?
  - If you smell gas, do you know how to—and would you be able to—shut off this value?  YES  NO
  - Gas valves usually cannot be turned off by hand. Have you purchased the specialized valve tool and is it near your valve?  YES  NO
25. If a water line was ruptured due to earthquake or other, do you know how to shut off the main water line to your house?
  - If this valve can not be turned off by hand, do you have a tool if one is needed?  YES  NO

**If you answered "No" to any of the above questions, it's time to take action.**

**For more guidelines and steps to help protect your home and family during natural disasters and other potential hazards, contact [ [your facility contact info here](#) ] to request a copy of the Home Emergency Preparedness Checklist Booklet.**

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## **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.



## **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.

Discuss how you will be warned about:

### **Natural Disasters**



#### **Earthquakes**



#### **Wild Land Fires**

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



#### **Flash Flooding / Dam Break**

Keep alert of signs of heavy rain and watch for rising water levels. Be especially cautious at night. It is harder to recognize the danger then.



#### **Thunderstorms / Lightning**

Be on the alert for dark, towering or threatening clouds or distant lightning and thunder. Be alert of advanced warnings from local TV or radio stations.



#### **Tornadoes**

Be alert of advanced warnings from local TV or radio stations. Set the alarm switch on a weather radio. Be mindful of your community's warning signals.



#### **Hurricanes**

Be alert of advanced warnings from local TV or radio stations.



#### **Winter Storms / Extreme Cold Temperatures**

Be alert of advanced warnings from local TV or radio stations.

## Home Emergency Preparedness • Step 2 (continued)



### Potential Hazards



#### *Pandemic Influenza*

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.



#### *West Nile Virus*

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.



#### *Avian Influenza*

Two main risks for human health from avian influenza are:

1. the risk of direct infection when the virus passes from the infected bird to humans, sometimes resulting in severe disease; and
2. the risk that the virus, if given enough opportunities, will change into a form that is highly infectious for humans and spreads easily from person to person.

Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches and, sometimes, eye infections. Some people may have trouble breathing, which can develop into serious problems, like pneumonia. Studies done in laboratories suggest that the prescription medicines approved for human influenza viruses should work in treating avian influenza infection in humans. However, influenza viruses can become resistant to these drugs, so these medications may not always work.



#### *Explosions/Bomb Threats*



#### *Radiological Weapons*

Move away from the immediate area—at least several blocks from the explosion—and go inside. This will reduce exposure to any radioactive airborne dust. Turn on the radio or TV channels for advisories from emergency response and health authorities.

## Home Emergency Preparedness • Step 2 (continued)



### Potential Hazards



#### ***Biological / Chemical Terrorism***

The severity of injuries depends on the type and amount of the chemical or biological agent used and the duration of exposure. Authorities may instruct citizens to either seek shelter where they are and seal the premises or evacuate immediately. Some agents are contagious and victims may need to be quarantined.



#### ***Hazardous Chemicals***

Many household cleaning supplies and other hazardous materials don't emit odors or have particular tastes, while others are more easily identifiable because they may cause physical reactions. Take an inventory of potential chemical and hazardous substances.



#### ***Home Fires***

When a fire occurs, do not waste time saving property. Leave the house immediately! Then notify the fire department by dialing 9-1-1. Have smoke detectors near every bedroom and on every level of the home.



#### ***Burglary***

If you hear a noise that sounds like someone is breaking in or moving around, quietly call the police and wait calmly until they arrive. If you and your family can leave safely, do so. Otherwise, lock everyone in a room. If windows or doors have been forced or broken while you were out, DON'T ENTER OR CALL OUT! Use a neighbor's phone, call 9-1-1 and wait until help arrives.



#### ***Home Injuries***

Conduct a home hazard hunt for potential hazards.



#### ***Wildlife Threats***

Most dangerous and potentially harmful encounters occur because people fail to leave the animals alone.