



How to Create Your Own EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Disasters can happen anywhere at any time. And while you can't control these dangerous events, you can develop a plan to safeguard the welfare of you and your family. What does such a safety plan look like? Let's start with the basics.

THE BASICS



PEOPLE

List the names, phone numbers and email addresses of the people in your household. Include contact information for your children's daycare and schools.

Choose an emergency contact outside of your immediate area and note the phone and email information.



PETS

List the name, type, color and registration number of your pet(s). Include phone numbers of pet-friendly motels, your vet and the local animal shelter (in the event your pet becomes separated from you).



INSURANCE

Meet with your insurance advisor to make sure your coverage is appropriate for the types of disasters that could affect your area.

Make a copy of your policy and take it with you if you need to evacuate.



MONEY

Have cash on hand in the event ATMs and credit cards don't work due to power outages.

List bank account numbers along with contact information.



SUPPLIES

Assemble a survival kit as recommended by the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org) or the Department of Homeland Security (www.ready.gov). Keep your survival supplies in one or two easy-to-carry, "grab and go," water-resistant bags or backpacks.

Maintain a battery-operated or hand-crank radio in order to stay abreast of disaster information if power fails.

Keep flashlights and extra batteries close at hand.



THE PLAN

Consider the types of emergencies (e.g., floods, tornadoes, wildfires, severe storms or hurricanes) most likely to happen where you live. This will affect aspects of your emergency plan.



IF YOU NEED TO EVACUATE...

- Have your battery-operated or hand-crank radio with you for the latest news and alerts.
- Determine how you will evacuate family members with special needs.
- Identify several places you could go, such as a friend's house or a motel.
- Identify two or three possible routes (going in different directions) to safety.
- Keep a full tank of gas if evacuation by car seems likely.
- Take your emergency survival kit with you.
- If family members are separated, agree on a meeting place or number to call to reconnect.



IF YOU ARE ADVISED TO SHELTER IN PLACE...

- Have your battery-operated or hand-crank radio at hand for the latest news and alerts.
- Seek shelter in the lowest level of your home, such as a basement or storm cellar. If you don't have a basement, go to an inner hallway, a smaller inner room or a closet.
- Stay away from windows and glass doorways.
- Keep pets on a leash or in a crate or carrier.
- Stay inside until you're certain the emergency has passed.

THE AFTERMATH

- Do not return home or venture out before the area is declared safe by local officials.
- Use extreme caution in and around your home, immediately reporting downed electrical wires; the smell of gas; weakened walls, bridges, roads and sidewalks; and anything else that may pose a danger to people or property.
- Paul Davis stands ready to assist wherever and whenever there is a need for property damage services and restoration. For immediate help, call 1-888-473-7669.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The websites of both the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org) and the Department of Homeland Security (www.ready.gov) have a wealth of information about preparing for an emergency, including helpful tips regarding customizing a plan for seniors, people with disabilities, and pets.
- You can register anytime on the American Red Cross "Safe and Well" site, then quickly and conveniently report your post-emergency status for extended family and friends to access. After a disaster, letting them know that you are safe and well can provide your loved ones with great peace of mind. Register by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) and selecting the prompt for "Disaster," or by going to safeandwell.communityos.org.