

Disaster Plan for Your Family!

If you have a Disaster Plan and practice it, you'll know what to do when disaster strikes. Otherwise, you're likely to run around like a chicken with its head cut off. Here's how to make your plan:

1. Contact your local Emergency Management Office, your local chapter of the American Red Cross, and your local Fire Department:
 - Find out which disasters are most likely to happen where you live
 - Ask how you would be warned
 - Find out how to prepare for each disaster
 - Find out where responsible family members can learn basic first aid/CPR
 - Learn about home fire hazards and how to use a fire extinguisher
2. Meet with your family:
 - Discuss types of disasters that are likely
 - Explain how to prepare and respond
 - Discuss what to do if advised to evacuate
 - Plan how you would escape each room in a fire or emergency
 - Plan how you would escape your home in a fire or emergency
 - Practice all the above, Remember fire drills in school? Try it!
3. Plan where to meet your family members if separated by disaster:
 - Pick 2 meeting places:
 - 1 a safe distance from your home in case of fire
 - 1 outside the neighborhood in case you can't return home
 - Plan a main route and an alternate route out of your neighborhood
4. Plan how to stay in contact with your family members if separated by disaster:
 - Choose an out-of-state friend as "check-in contact" for everyone to call
5. Prepare your home:
 - Post emergency phone numbers by each phone in your home
 - Show responsible family members how/when to shut off utilities.
 - Install smoke alarms at each level of your home, especially near bedrooms
 - Test smoke alarms monthly,
 - Replace smoke alarm batteries when you change clocks in spring and fall
6. If evacuating, decide where you would go. Decide what you would take.
7. If staying in-place, decide what you would need for 3 days, 3 weeks, 3 months.
8. For all the above, play the "What if?" game: WHAT WILL I DO if this happens?