



## Emergency Planning

Immediately after an emergency, essential services may be cut off and local disaster relief and government responders may not be able to reach you right away. One of the most important steps you can take in preparing for emergencies is to develop a household disaster plan.

1. Learn about the natural disasters that could occur in your community. Ask how to prepare for each potential emergency and how to respond.
2. Talk with employers and school officials about their emergency response plans.
3. Talk with your household about potential emergencies and how to respond to each. Talk about what you would need to do in an evacuation.
4. Plan how your household would stay in contact if you were separated. Identify two meeting places: the first should be near your home—in case of fire, perhaps a tree or a telephone pole; the second should be away from your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.
5. Pick a friend or relative who lives out of the area for household members to call to say they are OK.
6. Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two escape routes from each room.
7. Post emergency telephone numbers by telephones. Teach children how and when to call 911.
8. Make sure everyone in your household knows how and when to shut off water, gas and electricity at the main switches. Consult with your local utilities if you have questions.
9. Take a first-aid and CPR class. Local American Red Cross chapters can provide information.
10. Review property, life and health insurance policies before disaster strikes. Consider saving money in an “emergency” savings account that could be used in any crisis. Keep a small amount of cash or traveler’s checks at home in a safe place where you can quickly gain access to it in case of an evacuation.
11. Consider ways to help neighbors who may need special assistance, such as the elderly or the disabled.
12. Make arrangements for pets. Pets are not allowed in public shelters. Service animals for those who depend on them are allowed.

Prepare to survive on your own for at least three days. Assemble a disaster supply kit that includes a stock of food and extra drinking water.

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Call ValueOptions today.  
(800) 700-8646**

