



Preparing for Disaster - Planning

One of the realities of life is that disasters happen. Because they are unexpected, experts agree that one of the best things to do for your family is to prepare by having a Disaster Plan.

It is important to ensure that the entire family is prepared and informed in the event of a disaster or emergency. You may not always be together when these events take place and your Disaster Plan should include methods to make sure you are able to contact and find one another.

The following are critical to keep in mind for your Disaster Plan:

HOME EVACUATION

- Determine the best ways to evacuate your home in case of an emergency such as a house fire.
- Make sure everyone in the house knows the location of your Emergency Kit (items suggested below) and water supply.
- Establish a safe place for your family to meet.
- Include a plan for evacuating your pets.
- Practice your evacuation plan frequently.
- If you can't evacuate your home, prepare to be self-sufficient in your home for 72 hours (or seven to 10 days in a health emergency).
- If a member of your family has special needs that would require extra assistance, work those details into your family Disaster Plan and Emergency Kit.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Work with your neighbors to identify people who may need extra help during an emergency, or who you can turn to for help.
- Identify your community's emergency plan.
- Identify your community's evacuation routes.
- Identify where emergency shelters are located.
- In the event of a disaster, listen to local news stations. If officials ask you to evacuate your neighborhood, follow the routes and go to the location specified by officials. Do not take shortcuts as they could take you to a blocked or dangerous area.

ESTABLISH AN OUT-OF-TOWN EMERGENCY CONTACT

- Plan for each family member to call or e-mail the same out-of-town contact person in case of an emergency.
- Choose an out-of-town contact that lives far enough to not have been affected by the same event.
- Ensure that the designated person knows they are your family contact.
- Ensure that you and your family members know or carry the number and e-mail address.
- For more information on how to help prepare your children for an emergency, download the [Expect the Unexpected Guide for Parents and caregivers](#).

EMERGENCY KIT

- Water
- Food (non-perishable)
- Manual can opener
- Crank or battery-operated flashlight, with extra batteries
- Crank or battery-operated radio, with extra batteries
- Extra keys for your house and car
- First aid kit
- Cash in small bills
- Special needs items (i.e. medications, infant formula)
- Personal hygiene items
- Important family documents (i.e. copies of birth and marriage certificates, passports, licenses, wills, land deeds and insurance)
- A copy of your Disaster Plan

It is important to store these supplies together in a sturdy and easy-to-carry bag, such as a backpack, that can easily be used in an emergency situation. *Get your kit at <http://www.redcrossstore.org/category/id/1>.*

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- Change of clothing and footwear for each person
- Plastic sheeting
- Scissors and a pocket knife
- Whistle
- Hand sanitizer
- Pet food and pet medication
- Garbage bags and twist ties
- Toilet paper
- Multi-tool or basic tools (i.e. hammer, wrench, screwdriver etc.)
- Duct tape
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each member of your house hold

VEHICLE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT

An emergency can happen at any time when you are in your car. Be prepared to help yourself and your family if you are ever stuck in your vehicle for an extended period of time. In addition to your emergency preparedness kit, it is recommended that you keep the following items in your car:

- Water
- Food (non-perishable)
- Manual can opener
- Pocket Knife
- Blanket
- Extra clothing and shoes
- Crank or battery operated flashlight, with extra batteries
- Crank or battery operated radio, with extra batteries
- Road maps
- Road flares
- Work gloves
- Windshield washer fluid
- Jumper cable or batter pack
- Sand, salt or kitty litter
- Shovel and ice scraper
- De-icer (methy hydrate)

For Property Damage, Regardless of the circumstances – Call PuroClean. Our Paramedics of Property Damage are standing by and will mitigate the loss to prevent further damage and will then provide restoration services to return the property to a pre-loss condition as quickly as possible. We offer fire and water cleanup and restoration, mold mitigation and removal, and biohazard cleanup.

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The Paramedics of Property Damage

Water

Fire

Mold

Biohazard