

Is your family prepared for disasters?

GET INFORMED.

MAKE A PLAN.

GET SUPPLIES.

We cannot control the weather or prevent disasters from happening, but there are steps your family can take to help minimize risks from known hazards. Planning now can help save lives later. Here's what you and your family should do:

GET INFORMED. Texas is prone to disasters of all kinds – from severe weather events to industrial accidents. Terrorism is also a threat. Find out what hazards are common where you live. Is your community susceptible to wildfire, flooding, tornadoes, ice storms or hurricanes? What about hazardous materials incidents or other types of accidents?

When severe weather threatens, tune in to local radio, television or NOAA Weather Radio. Learn the difference between a *watch* and a *warning*. A *watch* means that dangerous weather is possible. A *warning* means it's about to happen; seek shelter now.

MAKE A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN. All families are different, so make a plan that fits your family. Each member needs to understand the plan and know which tasks he or she will be asked to do. Here are some things to consider:

1. Escape routes. Draw up a floor plan of your home. Each room should have two exits. Select a meeting site where everyone will gather after they've left the house. Establish escape routes from your neighborhood as well. Draw a map showing streets and their names so that when

authorities provide evacuation instructions, you will know where to go. Conduct a practice drill with all members of the household.

2. Utilities Shut-off. Be sure that responsible family members can turn off the gas, electricity and water supplies. Never turn gas back on by yourself. Always call the gas company for assistance.

3. Vital records. Make copies of important documents and secure them in a safe place away from home. You might want to copy:

- insurance policies
- driver's license or other photo ID
- bank account information
- credit card information
- financial records
- inventory of home possessions
- list of medications

4. Family communication. It's important to plan how family members will contact one another if they are separated during an emergency. Fill out an *Emergency Contact Card* for each family member listing phone numbers of important contacts. Keep the card in your wallet, purse or backpack.

ICE or IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

If you are injured in an accident or disaster, you may be unable to speak with emergency medical technicians. In these cases, paramedics often turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to his or her identity and emergency contact.

Make their job easier by adding an entry in your cell phone labeled ICE, which stands for "In Case of Emergency." Key in the name and phone number of your emergency contact.



EMERGENCY CONTACT CARD

Contact name: _____

Telephone: _____

Out-of-town contact: _____

Telephone: _____

DIAL 9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES

FAMILY DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

- **Water.** Pack one gallon per day for each member of your family.
- **Food.** Choose foods that your family will eat and that need no refrigeration or cooking, like protein bars, dried fruits, nuts, peanut butter, crackers and canned goods. Also pack a hand-operated can opener and eating utensils.
- **Clean air items.** If there is an explosion, you may need to protect yourself from airborne contamination. Pack nose and mouth protection masks (N-95 rating), plastic sheeting and duct tape.
- **Clothing.** Pack a change of clothes, a pair of shoes and a blanket for each family member.
- **First aid kit.** Include sterile gloves, gauze, soap, antibiotic towelettes, antibiotic ointment, burn ointment, bandages, thermometer and prescription medications.
- **Emergency items.** Pack a battery-powered radio, flashlights, extra batteries, a whistle, a shovel, basic tools, garbage bags, baby wipes, toilet paper and road maps.
- **Special needs items.**
 - For babies, pack formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk, medications, baby wipes and diaper rash ointment.
 - For adults with special needs, consult a doctor about storing prescription drugs.
 - Include supplies for dentures, contact lenses and hearing aids.
 - Include items for your pet: 3-day supply of food and water, leash, crate, vaccination records, cleaning supplies, etc.



CREATE A FAMILY DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT.

If you are forced to evacuate your home or shelter in place, you may not have time to gather all the necessities for keeping your family safe and comfortable. Assemble a kit now with enough supplies to take care of each family member for at least three days.

It's best to store your supplies in an air-tight, portable container but something as simple as a backpack or plastic trash bag will work.

Be sure to check your kit regularly and replace items that may expire such as batteries and food.

FAMILY PREPAREDNESS



Disasters can strike at any time.

Is your family prepared?

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Allergies: _____

Medications: _____

Medical conditions: _____



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