

Create A Plan

Prior to an emergency is the best time to think about what you and your family will do after an emergency happens.



There are many issues to think about when it comes to your family's safety in a crises. The following tips are just some of the things to discuss and write down in a plan. These tips will help your family stay calm and feel you have some control over the situation at hand.

Share with your family and friends the importance of having a family emergency plan and their roles in your plan.

(Don't forget to include your caregivers in your planning!)

Designate an "Out-of-Town"

Contact

Ask someone that lives out of town and is close to you if they can be your out-of-town contact. After a disaster, all members of the family will report to this person. Everyone will need to have this persons' contact information.

*After a disaster, it is often easier to reach people that live outside of town, rather than where the emergency is.

Pick a Location to Meet

If an sudden emergency happens, like a fire, designate a location to meet outside of your home.

Develop Escape Routes & Safe Places

Be certain that everyone in your family knows the different ways to get out of your house and the safest places to take cover, in cases like a tornado. Some emergencies only give a moments notice, these routes need to be identified before the emergency happens.

Plan for those with Disabilities & Special Needs

If a family member is dependent on you, a medication, or a piece of equipment be certain to have backups available. If those support items cannot be obtained, what will that person need to be safe?



Plan for your Pets

If you evacuate, be sure to take your pets with you. Be aware that pets (other than service animals) are usually not permitted in emergency public shelters. Prepare a list of people and places that could shelter your pets in an emergency (ex. veterinarians, hotels, friends).

Prepare for Different Hazards

In your plan be sure you show how you will address all emergencies that can happen in your community. For example, there will be distinct differences in how you will react to a flood versus a tornado.

Complete a Communication Plan

Your plan should include but is not limited to:

- Contact information for family members (work, school, cell)
- Contact information for out-of-town person
- Meeting locations
- Emergency Services Numbers
- National Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222)

A sample form for recording this information can be found at www.ready.gov or www.redcross.org/contactcard.

Teach children how to call emergency numbers and when it is appropriate to do so. All members of your family should have a copy of your communication plan and a copy should be placed near your telephone.