

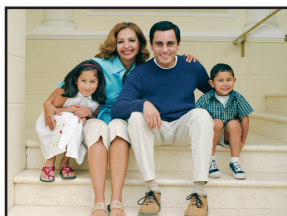
Family Emergency Plan



For many people, it is not pleasant to think about disasters. It is very common for people to adopt an attitude of "It won't happen to me!" in order to avoid having to think about emergency preparedness.

The fact is, the moment to start thinking about what to do during an emergency should not be as the emergency is happening. Planning should be done in advance, taking into account every member of the family, including pets, as well as every possible contingency.

When creating a Family Emergency Plan, you need to first identify what types of emergencies you might face. Then, for each type of emergency you should ask yourself two basic questions: "What am I going to do?" and "What am I going to need?"



In addition to your plan, here are some other important points to remember:

- Keep a Grab-And-Go bag packed with clothes and supplies in case you have to suddenly evacuate. Remember to include pet supplies if necessary.
(See Pet Preparedness flyer)
- Learn first aid and CPR.
- Keep at least a ½ tank of gas in the car at all times.

Here are some of the basic elements of a family emergency plan:

- Know the location of all of your utility shut-off valves (gas, water, electric) and keep a wrench or tool stored near the valve if necessary.
- Assign responsibilities to family members, so everyone will know what to do.
- Make sure the plan accounts for those with special needs or issues as well as pets.
- Know your evacuation routes away from the house and away from the area. Identify alternate routes in case the primary route is blocked.
- Agree upon locations where the family can reunite if separated. One location should be near the home and one should be at a more distant location in case your local area is closed by authorities.
- Identify an out-of-state contact your family and loved ones can call in order to share information. (Often, the local phone lines will not work, but long distance lines will still be functioning.) Program that number into all family cell phones.
- Program the telephone numbers for the local emergency information sources into your cell phones.
- Share the plan with the whole family. Practice it and keep it updated.

