



## Emergency Preparedness for Your Home

Being prepared for emergencies can significantly increase your safety and resilience. This bulletin outlines essential steps to ensure your household is ready for various emergencies, including natural disasters, power outages, and medical emergencies.

### 1. Create an Emergency Plan

- **Identify Risks:** Assess potential emergencies specific to your area (e.g., floods, earthquakes, fires).
- **Establish Meeting Points:** Designate a safe location outside your home and an alternative meeting point in case of evacuation.
- **Communication Plan:** Ensure all family members know how to reach each other and have emergency contact numbers saved.

### 2. Build an Emergency Kit

- Every household should have a well-stocked emergency kit. Here are essential items to include:
  - **Water:** At least one gallon per person per day for three days.
  - **Non-perishable food items:** for at least three days (canned goods, granola bars, etc.).
  - **Flashlights and Batteries:** One flashlight per person, along with extra batteries.
  - **First Aid Kit:** Include bandages, antiseptic wipes, pain relievers, and any personal medications.
  - **Multi-tool:** or Swiss Army Knife
  - **Whistle:** To signal for help.
  - **Dust Masks:** To help filter contaminated air.
  - **Plastic Sheeting and Duct Tape:** For sheltering in place.
  - **Local Maps:** In case of evacuation or navigating without GPS.
  - **Cash:** Small bills and coins in case of power outages.

### 3. Prepare Your Home

- **Secure Heavy Furniture:** Anchor shelves and large furniture to walls.
- **Know How to Shut Off Utilities:** Be familiar with how to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
- **Install Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Test them monthly and change batteries twice a year (Clean the inside of the detector of dust and debris by using either an air compressor or vacuum hose. The outside of the detector can be cleaned with a damp cloth).
- **Fire Extinguishers:** Place them in key areas (kitchen, garage, basement) and check them regularly.



## Emergency Preparedness Continued

- **Check on sump or ejector pumps:** Especially during storms GFCI breakers/outlets can trip.
- **Downspout Extensions:** Inspect for proper connection and downspouts and underground piping.
- **Exterior Storm Water Drains:** Ensure any drains on your property are free of debris prior to large rain events. Proper drainage away from your home can prevent water infiltration during most rain events.

### 4. Stay Informed

- **Sign Up for Alerts:** Register for local emergency alerts to stay informed about weather conditions and emergencies.
- **Listen to NOAA Weather Radio:** Keep a battery-powered or hand-crank radio on hand.
- **Follow Local Authorities on social media:** Get real-time updates and safety information.

### 5. Practice Your Plan

- **Conduct Drills:** Regularly practice your emergency plan, including evacuation routes and communication strategies.
- **Involve Everyone:** Make sure all family members understand their roles in an emergency.

### 6. Emergency Resources

- **Local Red Cross:** Offers training and resources for preparedness.
- **FEMA:** Provides comprehensive guidelines and tools for home emergency preparedness.
- **Community Programs:** Check for local workshops or classes on emergency preparedness.

*Emergency preparedness is essential for safeguarding your family and home. By taking proactive steps and staying informed, you can minimize risks and enhance your resilience in the face of emergencies. Regularly review and update your plan and kit to ensure you're always ready.*

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