

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN CHECKLIST

The next time disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act and local first responders may not be able to reach you right away. **PREPARE NOW** for a sudden emergency and discuss these ideas with your entire family to create a **Family Emergency Plan**.

Even though this checklist looks long and scary, it is easy to do and can help you make a plan. We suggest you and your family review this list, then read through the Manual since there are many tips mentioned in various topics and Sections that could help develop your plan.

PLEASE make some time in your busy lives to prepare for a disaster... a few minutes now could possibly save a life when a disaster hits. Remember - **be aware... be prepared... and have a plan!**

LEARN ABOUT RISKS & EXISTING PLANS:

- [] Find out which disasters could occur in your area and ask local officials how to prepare for each disaster, but read this Manual first.
- [] Ask how you will be warned of an emergency.
- [] Learn your community's evacuation routes and map them out using a free service like Google Maps or Mapquest or order Depiction.
- [] Ask about special assistance for elderly or disabled persons.
- [] Ask your workplace about emergency plans and learn about plans at your children's school(s) or day care center(s).

TIPS ON MAKING YOUR FAMILY PLAN:

*(Review all and complete **Family Emergency Plan** on pages 12-13):*

- [] Meet with household members to talk about the dangers of fire, severe weather, earthquakes and other emergencies. Explain how to respond to each using the tips in this Manual.
- [] Find safe spots in your home for each type of disaster that affects your community. *(see Section 2 for explanations of each disaster)*
- [] Talk about what to do when there are power outages and injuries.
- [] Take a basic first aid and CPR class (or join a CERT - see page 221).

- [] Draw a floor plan of your home showing doors, windows and stairways. Mark locations of first aid and disaster kits, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, ladders, and utility shut-off points. Next, use a colored pen to draw a broken line charting at least 2 escape routes from each room. And practice drills!
- [] Show family members how to turn off water, gas and electricity at the main switches when necessary.
- [] Post emergency telephone numbers near telephones and teach children how and when to call 9-1-1. (*see Section 3*)
- [] Make sure household members understand they should turn on the radio for emergency information.
- [] Pick one out-of-state and a local friend or relative for family members to call if separated during a disaster. (It is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area.)
- [] Pick two emergency meeting places in case you can't go home: 1) A place near your home. 2) A place outside the neighborhood.
- [] Teach children meeting places and emergency phone numbers in case you get separated during a crisis.
- [] Put **ICE** before a name and number in cell phone address books so First Responders would know who to call "**In Case of Emergency**".
- [] Make sure family members know how to send and receive photos and text messages (if you have those capabilities on your cells). Also consider joining a network like Twitter or a local text message alert system to receive emergency broadcast warnings, updates, etc.
- [] Get some FRS walkie-talkies and teach family how to use them.
- [] Practice emergency evacuation drills with all household members at least two times each year. Also learn how to get involved with America's *PrepareAthon!* at www.ready.gov/prepare
- [] Consider doing a Living Will and/or a Healthcare Power of Attorney.
- [] Keep family records in a water- and fire-proof container. Consider keeping another set of records in a safety deposit box offsite.
- [] Check if you have enough insurance coverage. (*see Section 2 for more information on flood insurance.*)

TIPS FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED FAMILY MEMBERS:

- [] Ask about special aid that may be available in an emergency for elderly and disabled family members. Find out if assistance is available for evacuation and in public shelters. FEMA suggests people with a disability register with local fire department so help can be provided quickly in an emergency (if available in your area).
- [] Ask your children's teachers and caregivers about emergency plans for schools, day care centers or nursing homes.
- [] If you currently have a personal care attendant from an agency, check to see if the agency will be providing services at another location if there is an evacuation -- and tell family members.
- [] Learn what to do and where to go for each type of emergency. For example, basements are not wheelchair-accessible so you should have alternate safe places for different types of disasters for disabled or elderly persons.
- [] Learn what to do in case of power outages and injuries. Know how to start a back-up power supply for essential medical equipment!
- [] If someone in the home uses a wheelchair, make sure 2 exits are wheelchair-accessible in case one exit is blocked.
- [] Consider getting a medical alert system that will allow you to call for help if you have trouble getting around.
- [] Both elderly and disabled persons should wear a medical alert bracelet or necklace at all times if they have special needs.
- [] Talk to your doctor to ask if you can keep a 60-90 day supply of medications and special medical parts and supplies on-hand in case of emergency.
- [] Consider setting up a "Buddy" system with a roommate, trusted friend or neighbor. Give buddy a copy of your **Family Emergency Plan** and an extra house key or tell them where one is available.
- [] Consider putting a few personal items in a lightweight draw string bag (e.g. a whistle, some medications, a small flashlight, extra hearing aid batteries, etc.) and tie it to your wheelchair or walker for emergencies. Make sure to rotate items so current and working.
- [] Visit the **National Organization on Disability** web site to learn more about Emergency Preparedness issues at www.nod.org .

TIPS FOR PETS OR LIVESTOCK / LARGE ANIMALS:

TIPS FOR PETS

- [] If you have to evacuate your home, DO NOT leave pets behind! Make sure you take a secure pet carrier, leash or harness with you.
- [] Emergency shelters may not accept pets (unless it is a service animal). Find out which motels and hotels in your area allow pets in advance of needing them. Ask your veterinarian or animal shelter if they board animals during a disaster or emergency.
- [] Make sure identification tags are current and securely fastened to pet's collar or get a microchip implanted in your pet. Keep a current photo in your wallet or cell phone for identification purposes.
- [] Make sure a roommate, trusted neighbor or friend has an extra house key to evacuate your pets in the event you are unavailable.

TIPS FOR LIVESTOCK / LARGE ANIMALS

- [] Evacuate livestock whenever possible. Make arrangements for evacuation, including routes and host sites, in advance. At least two alternate evacuation routes should be mapped out as a backup.
- [] The evacuation site should have food, water, veterinary care, handlers, equipment and proper facilities.
- [] Trucks, trailers, and vehicles for transporting animals should be available with experienced handlers and drivers to transport them.
- [] If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made whether to move large animals to available shelter or turn them outside. This decision should be based on the type of disaster and the soundness and location of the shelter or structure.
- [] If you board animals, ask if facility has an evacuation plan in place.

Next, we suggest you sit with your family and write down your **Family Emergency Plan** using the next 2 pages as a guide. Then review how to put together a **Disaster Supplies Kit** since you may not have much time if you are told to evacuate quickly.

Again, we suggest you and family members read this manual together - especially your kids - since there are many tips here that could help you make a plan and learn what to do if the unexpected happens. You may just want to review the book first and then come back to this Section later.

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

(Post a copy of this information near phone and in kits for easy access.)

Emergency Numbers

In a life-threatening emergency, **call 9-1-1** or local emergency number:

Police Department: _____

Fire Department: _____

Ambulance: _____

Hospital: _____

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222 (U.S. only) _____

Out-of-State Contact

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Local Contact

Name _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Family & Friends Work / Cell Numbers

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Neighbors

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

School Information (if you have children)

Child / School Name: _____ / _____ Ph#: _____

Child / School Name: _____ / _____ Ph#: _____

Child / School Name: _____ / _____ Ph#: _____

Family Doctors

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Medical Allergies

Name: _____ Allergy: _____

Name: _____ Allergy: _____

Current Prescriptions

Name: _____ Medication: _____

Name: _____ Medication: _____

Other

Dentist: _____ Phone#: _____

Veterinarian: _____ Phone#: _____

Electric company: _____

Gas company: _____

Water company: _____

EMERGENCY MEETING PLACES (OR AREAS)

In case you get separated during an emergency or disaster, decide on two Meeting Places or Areas where you can join each other. Include children in this decision so they understand why they should meet here.

1. Near your home (within 1 mile of your house) _____

2. Away from your home (at least 5 miles from your house) _____

Note: If these meeting places cannot be reached, text or send pictures of a new location or a landmark you are near so others can find you.