

Emergency preparedness

12 things to do to make your family ready for a disaster

1 Have an emergency plan

Develop, maintain and practice a written, comprehensive plan for emergencies.

2 Get an emergency kit

Assemble and maintain a portable 72-hour kit.

3 Have an emergency food supply

Fortify home base with food, water and other essentials to care for the needs of residents.

4 Prepare to shelter-in-place

Evacuation might expose a population to a greater danger than "staying put."

5 Know your home

Learn how to operate electric circuits, natural-gas controls, main water valves, outside air vents, etc.

6 Take inventory

Inventory items of special value and importance. Know their convenient location.

7 Equip your car

8 Prepare to go powerless

Prepare the home to remain secure and reasonably comfortable during short or extended periods.

9 Plan for pets

10 Figure financial contingencies

Anticipate and plan for the interruption of income because of loss of employment, illness or even the unexpected death of a breadwinner.

11 Remember your health

Plan for medical needs during a time of extended emergencies. Emphasize critical, life-supporting medications and supplies.

12 Remember those with special needs

This may include someone outside your home who may need your assistance.