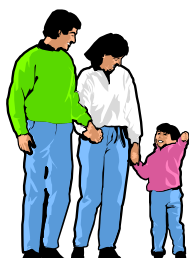


Preparing for Disasters and Emergencies: *Your Family Plan*



Often we have very little or no warning when an emergency or disaster is going to occur. Planning ahead can help your family get through any situation. Keep your plan simple, and make sure everyone in your household understands it.

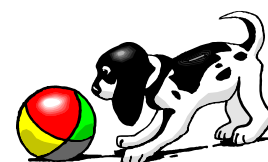


Communication

- Identify two meeting places for your family. Be sure that one is near your home in case of a fire. The second location should be outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return to your home.
- Choose a friend or family member who does not live in your immediate area as an emergency contact. Be sure all members of your household know to call this person if you are separated during a disaster or emergency.

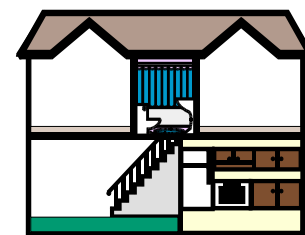
Evacuation

- Talk to your family about what you will do if you must evacuate your area.
- Identify places you might go and discuss these options in advance.
- Plan several evacuation routes that you could follow.
- Make arrangements for the care of your pets. Animals usually are not allowed in public shelters, so make alternative plans.



Home Preparation

- Post emergency phone numbers near your phones or in a prominent location.
- Teach as many family members as possible how and when to turn off the water, gas, and electricity at the main switches or valves.
- Review your insurance policies to be sure that you have adequate coverage.
- Install working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Learn how to use and purchase a fire extinguisher for your home. Your local fire department may provide training on proper use of fire extinguishers.
- Consider alternative heating sources for your home in case you are without gas or electricity.
- Identify the best storm shelter area inside your home, typically a basement or an interior room on the lowest level.
- Assemble a disaster supplies kit, and stock emergency supplies in your home. Make sure all family members know the location of these items.
- Buy a S.A.M.E. NOAA weather radio with a tone-alert feature.
- Plan your home escape routes, and practice leaving your home quickly. Try to identify at least two escape routes for each room.



Reference: *Talking About Disaster: Guide for Standard Messages*. Produced by the National Disaster Education Coalition, Washington, D.C., 2004.

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For more information, contact your county Extension office or visit the Kentucky Extension Disaster Education Network Web site, Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, at www.wagvx.ca.uky.edu/EDEN.

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