



# FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

A Family Disaster Plan helps you prepare for emergencies and ensures everyone in your household knows what to do, where to go, and how to communicate during a disaster. This guide is based on recommendations from emergency management organizations, best practices in disaster preparedness, and insights from real-life disaster scenarios. It is designed to provide actionable steps for your household to stay safe and organized during emergencies.

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## Family Communication Plan

- **Emergency Contacts:**
  - List primary and secondary emergency contacts, including phone numbers and addresses.
  - Include an out-of-area contact person that all family members can reach if local communication is disrupted.
- **Communication Methods:**
  - Agree on how you will communicate (e.g., text messages, emails, or social media).
  - Ensure every family member has access to important phone numbers and can use emergency features on their phones.



## Meeting Places

- **Neighborhood Meeting Place:**
  - Designate a location near your home where everyone can meet in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire.
- **Regional Meeting Place:**
  - Choose a location outside your neighborhood in case evacuation is required.
- **Evacuation Routes:**
  - Plan multiple routes to your meeting places in case primary roads are blocked.



## Emergency Supplies

- Ensure every family member has access to a 72-hour disaster supply kit with essentials such as food, water, first aid, and clothing.
- Keep a smaller version of the kit in your car or workplace.



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## Evacuation Plan

- **Know When to Evacuate:**
  - Understand the types of emergencies (wildfire, flood, earthquake) that may require evacuation in your area.
- **Transportation:**
  - Plan transportation options in case some family members don't have access to a car.
- **Pet Evacuation:**
  - Include your pets in the plan. Ensure you have carriers, leashes, food, and water for them.



## Special Needs & Accessibility

- **Know When to Evacuate:**
  - Understand the types of emergencies (wildfire, flood, earthquake) that may require evacuation in your area.
- **Transportation:**
  - Plan transportation options in case some family members don't have access to a car.
- **Pet Evacuation:**
  - Include your pets in the plan. Ensure you have carriers, leashes, food, and water for them.



## Emergency Numbers & Resources

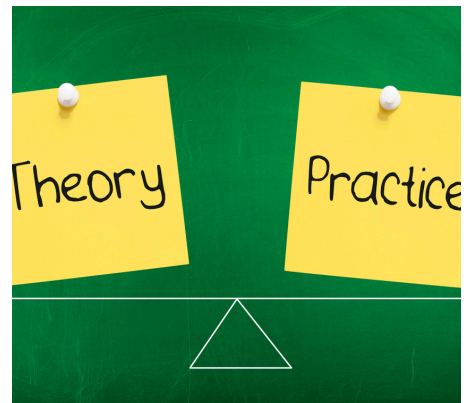
- **Post a list of emergency numbers in a central location, such as:**
  - Local fire and police departments
  - Poison control center
  - Local hospitals and clinics
- **Save these numbers on every family member's phone.**

# FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

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### Practice & Review

- **Conduct Regular Drills:**
  - Practice evacuating the house and meeting at designated locations.
  - Test communication methods during a drill.
- **Review Annually:**
  - Update the plan annually or when there are changes in your household (e.g., a new address or phone number).



### Important Documents

- **Store copies of important documents in a waterproof and fireproof container. These may include:**
  - Birth certificates, passports, and IDs
  - Insurance policies
  - Medical records and prescriptions
  - Financial documents



### Local Hazards & Alerts

- **Know Your Risks:**
  - Identify the natural disasters and emergencies most likely to occur in your area (earthquakes, floods, wildfires, etc.).
- **Sign Up for Alerts:**
  - Enroll in local emergency alert systems, such as text notifications or weather updates.



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### After a Disaster

- **Reunite Safely:**
  - Follow your communication plan to check on family members.
- **Inspect Your Home:**
  - Look for damages and hazards before entering your home.
- **Contact Insurance Providers:**
  - File claims for any property damage or loss.



### *Tips for Success*

- **Involve all household members in creating the plan.**
- **Share your plan with babysitters, caregivers, and extended family.**
- **Keep printed and digital copies of your plan for easy access.**

By planning ahead and practicing regularly, your family can stay prepared and safe during any emergency.

