

Disaster Preparedness Checklist

A multi-hazard readiness checklist covering planning, supplies, home prep, evacuation, insurance and recovery.

Build Your Emergency Plan

- Identify the hazards most likely to affect your area
- Sign up for local warnings and emergency alerts
- Set indoor and out-of-neighborhood meeting points
- Choose an out-of-area contact for everyone to check in with
- Plan how to care for children, seniors and pets
- Practice and review the plan with the family twice a year

Stock Emergency Supplies

- Store one gallon of water per person per day for three days
- Keep a three-day supply of non-perishable food and a can opener
- Pack a first aid kit and prescription medications
- Add flashlights, a battery or hand-crank radio and spare batteries
- Include phone chargers, a power bank and emergency cash
- Add sanitation supplies, masks, gloves and sturdy shoes

Protect Your Home

- Know where to shut off water, gas and electricity
- Secure heavy furniture, water heaters and shelving to walls
- Clear gutters, drains and brush from around the home
- Test smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms and keep extinguishers handy
- Store fuel, generators and chemicals safely
 - Never run a generator indoors or in a garage — carbon monoxide is deadly
- Trim trees and remove limbs that could fall on the house

Prepare to Evacuate

- Map at least two evacuation routes from your area
- Keep a go-bag packed for each family member
- Keep vehicles fueled and ready, or know transit options
- Plan transport and supplies for those who need assistance
- Identify pet-friendly shelters and lodging in advance

Secure Insurance and Documents

- Review home, renter, flood and auto insurance coverage
- Photograph or video your belongings for claims
- Copy IDs, deeds, policies and medical records
- Store copies in a waterproof container and the cloud
- Keep emergency contacts and account numbers together

Take the Right Steps After a Disaster

- Wait for the official all-clear before returning home
- Check for gas leaks, downed power lines and structural damage

- Avoid floodwater and turn off utilities if you suspect damage
- Document damage with photos before cleanup or repairs
- Contact your insurer and apply for assistance if eligible
- Restock and refresh your kit once the emergency passes