

Emergency Preparedness Checklist

A complete household readiness checklist covering your plan, supplies, documents, communication and special needs.

Make a Family Emergency Plan

- Sign up for local emergency alerts and warnings
- Choose two meeting places: one near home and one outside the neighborhood
- Pick an out-of-town contact everyone can call or text
 - Texts often go through when calls fail during an emergency
- Map at least two evacuation routes out of your area
- Plan how to reunite with children at school or daycare
- Practice the plan with the whole family twice a year

Store Water and Food

- Store one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- Keep a three-day supply of non-perishable food per person
- Include a manual can opener and basic eating utensils
- Add food for infants, pets and anyone with special diets
- Label storage dates and rotate stock before it expires

Build the Core Supply Kit

- Stock a first aid kit and any prescription medications
- Pack flashlights and a battery- or hand-crank radio
- Keep extra batteries and a power bank for phones
- Add a whistle to signal for help
- Include dust masks, work gloves and plastic sheeting
- Pack moist towelettes, garbage bags and ties for sanitation

Gather Important Documents

- Copy IDs, passports, birth and marriage certificates
- Save insurance policies, deeds and lease agreements
- List bank, medical and emergency contact information
- Store copies in a waterproof bag and a secure cloud account
- Keep some cash in small bills in case card systems are down

Set Up Communication

- Save emergency contacts on every family member's phone
- Write key numbers on a card in case phones die
- Keep chargers, a power bank and a car charger ready
- Agree on a check-in time and method if you are separated
 - A shared group text or messaging thread keeps everyone updated
- Know how to receive alerts if the power and internet are out

Plan for Special Needs and Pets

- Pack a week of medications and copies of prescriptions
- Include supplies for infants, seniors and disabilities

- Store spare glasses, hearing-aid batteries and mobility aids
- Prepare food, water, leash, carrier and vaccination records for pets
- Identify pet-friendly shelters or hotels along evacuation routes
- Add comfort items and activities for children