



**American
Red Cross**
of Greater Indianapolis

Be Red Cross Ready

Make a Plan

Getting a kit is just the first step in preparing for a disaster. You also need to have an emergency plan in place based on your household's needs and the types of disasters likely to occur in central Indiana. Planning ahead helps you have the best possible response to a disaster and speed up the recovery time for you and your family.

There are five elements of a good Disaster Plan:

Talk

- Meet with your family to discuss what disasters or emergencies might happen in your community. This lets everyone know how to respond and helps reduce fear.
- Talk through how you should prepare and respond in each case (evacuation, shelter-in-place).
- Share why it's important to plan and work as a team in an emergency.

Plan

- Choose two places where household members will meet after a disaster: one outside of your home in case of a sudden emergency like a fire, and another outside of your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Everyone must know the address of your meeting place.
- Determine two ways to get out of each room in your home and two ways to evacuate your community.
- If you have pets or livestock, remember to include them in your plan.
- Address the needs of children, older adults or people with disabilities.
- Conduct a home-hazard hunt.
- During a disaster it may be easier to call long distance. Determine an out-of-town emergency contact. Every member of the household should know the person's name and number.
- Download and print an emergency contact card and complete for each member of your household.

Learn

- Know your community's disaster warning signals. Know what to do and where to go when you hear them.
- Find out what the emergency plans and policies are for your workplaces, schools and daycare centers.
- Adults should learn how to turn off utilities such as gas, water and electricity and know how to properly use a fire extinguisher.
- Make sure everyone in your household knows how and when to call for emergency help.
- Check to see if you have adequate insurance coverage for various types of disasters.

Tell

- Everyone in your household should know where emergency information and supplies are stored.
- Keep information updated and supplies well-stocked.

Practice

- Review and maintain your plan.
- Quiz and role-play with your children every six months to help them remember what to do and remain calm in emergencies.
- Conduct emergency drills for fire, severe weather and evacuations at least two times a year.