



Family Communication Plan

Time to get the entire family involved—and prepared. Studies show that just thinking about preparedness and emergency plans in advance can improve how you and your family will come through the event. Involve everyone in the planning process, talking about why it's necessary to prepare.

1. Identify types of community hazards.

Learn about the natural disasters that could occur in your community from your local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter. Notes:

Learn whether hazardous materials are produced, stored or transported near your area. Notes:

2. Learn about business and school emergency response plans.

Discuss with employers and school officials about their emergency response plans. Notes:

3. Organize a household family meeting.

Talk with your household about potential emergencies and how to respond to each. Talk about what you would need to do in an evacuation. Details of evacuation plan:



4. Complete a Family Communication Plan

- Plan how your household would stay in contact with one another if you were separated.
- Identify two meeting places:
 - Near your home (in case of fire, perhaps a tree or a telephone pole)
 - Outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home
- Make sure to pick a friend or relative who lives out of the area for household members to call to say they are OK.

5. Talk to your family!

- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by telephones and point them out to your children.
- Make sure everyone in your household knows how and when to shut off water, gas and electricity at the main switches. (Consult with MLG&W if you have questions.)
- Practice and act out evacuation plans, getting to your designated "safe place" quickly and safely.

6. Take a class

- Take a first aid and CPR class. Local American Red Cross chapters can provide information. Official certification by the American Red Cross provides "Good Samaritan" law protection for those giving first aid.

7. Review and copy important documents

- Review property insurance and health insurance policies and make sure they meet your current household need (amount of coverage and type of coverage, i.e., flood, earthquake).
- Protect your household's financial well-being:
 - Review life insurance policies and consider saving money in an emergency savings account that could be used in any crisis.
 - Try to keep small amount of cash or traveler's checks at home in a safe place where you can quickly gain access to them in case of an evacuation.
 - Make copies of important documents (bank account numbers, policy numbers, etc.) and keep them in a fire-safe box, secure at an off-site location, and send them to an out-of-town relative.

8. Discuss special household needs

- Make arrangements for pets. Pets are not allowed in public shelters. Service animals for those who depend on them are allowed, however.