

Faith Communities and Disaster Preparedness



What do you do if your gas, power, and phone go out during a natural or manmade disaster? Where would you go? How would you protect your family?

Are You Ready?

Here are practical steps that can make a big difference in ensuring safety in the event of a disaster for you, your family and your congregation:



Be Informed

- **Locate Shelters**

Different locations provide shelters for different needs such as pets, medical, emergency, and transitional sheltering.

- **Know Evacuation Routes**

A key part of preparing for emergencies and disasters is knowing what you will do if the need arises. Once you have your plan, be sure to know it and practice it.

- **Listen for Emergency Information**

Check with local TV stations, radio stations, and related websites. It's also helpful to have a National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association (NOAA) weather radio or another emergency alert system.



Be Involved

- **Get Trained**

Contact your local American Red Cross and Citizen Corps Council for additional training.



- **Be a Volunteer**

Become part of your local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) that provides basic disaster training you can use to respond effectively to the needs of your family and neighbors in any emergency.



Be Ready

- **Make a Family Plan**

Plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the event, the first important decision is whether you "Shelter-in-Place" or evacuate. Make sure you have an evacuation route! Work with friends, neighbors, and family members to develop a communication plan.

- **Plan for Your Pets**

Before a disaster know which shelters are available to house your pets during a disaster. Learn any rules or restrictions that they may have and adjust your Disaster Kit accordingly. Fido needs to Be Ready too!



3- Day Kit Checklist

Having a 3-Day Kit ready and packed will help prepare your family in the case of an emergency or evacuation. Keep the following items in a sturdy and easy-to-carry container and make sure it's ready to go at all times during the year:

- ♦ Copies of important documents in a waterproof container (Photo IDs, proof of residence, insurance, birth certificates, deeds, Social Security Card etc.)
- ♦ Hygiene kit of toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, deodorant, feminine products, shaving supplies, and etc.
- ♦ Non-expired medication, medical contact information, prescriptions, and first aid kit
- ♦ Extra car and house keys
- ♦ Bottled water (1 gallon per person/day) and nonperishable food (i.e. granola or energy bars)
- ♦ Battery operated radio, flashlight, and extra batteries
- ♦ Contact and meeting place information for your household and a small regional map
- ♦ Small denomination of cash and ATM cards
- ♦ Comfortable shoes, raingear, and blanket
- ♦ Any special care items



For more information, tips and ideas on disaster preparedness:

www.texasimpact.org/disasterhome

www.ready.gov

www.texasprepares.org

www.cdc.gov/features/beready

www.txconfchurches.org/pages/what_churches_can_do

Information provided by Texas Conference of Churches and Texas Impact