

Home Disaster Plan

Failing to plan is planning to fail. Every family should have and practice a home disaster plan. Practicing helps everyone know what they do when faced with an emergency.

When creating a Home Disaster Plan, identify the special needs of your family. Are there members of your family that need special assistance if they have to evacuate? Do you have pets that need special arrangements in case of an emergency? Does anyone in your family take medicines on a daily basis? These are just some of the questions your Home Disaster Plan needs to address. For additional information, contact the local Red Cross Chapter.

A Home Disaster Plan should cover the following areas:

- Have at least two exits from your house.
- Designate two locations outside your home where your family can meet after an evacuation. One near your home and the other outside of your neighborhood in case you cannot return to your home.
- Develop a communications plan. This should include an out of state family member or friend who family members can call and let them know their location. It is sometimes easier to make a long distance call than a local call after an emergency.
- Keep emergency Fire, Police and other emergency numbers posted where everyone knows where they are located.
- Teach your children how and when to call 911.
- Know where the shut off valves for water, gas and electricity are for your home are located and know how to turn them off.
- Check batteries for smoke detectors frequently and replace when needed.