

Preparing a Family Weather Disaster Plan



Families should be prepared for all hazards that could affect their area. Follow these basic steps to develop a family disaster plan:

> Gather information about hazards

- Find out what type of disasters could happen and how you should respond. Learn your community's warning signals and evacuation plans.
- In the event of a severe weather **watch**, atmospheric conditions indicate severe weather may occur. Stay tuned to news broadcasts.
- In the event of a severe weather **warning**, severe weather has been spotted or will occur soon. Take immediate action.

> Meet with your family to communicate the plan

- Discuss the information you've gathered.
- Pick two places to meet: a spot outside your home for an emergency and a place away from your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
- Choose an out-of-state friend or relative as your "family check-in contact" for everyone to call if the family gets separated. Make sure all family members memorize that phone number.

> Implement that plan

- Post emergency telephone numbers by all phones.
- Inspect your home for potential hazards, such as items that can move, fall or break. Move them.
- Never use candles for light during a power outage. Use flashlights or other battery-operated lighting devices instead, such as *Energizer*® Weatheready™ Lights.
- Make sure your family learns basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid, how to use a fire extinguisher and how and when to turn off water, gas and electricity in your home.
- Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local emergency services number.
- Make sure everyone knows where the emergency power kit is stored.

> Practice and maintain your plan

- Conduct family drills.
- Test and replace batteries in the emergency power kit each year on the first day of spring.

Keeping Communities Safe

Families should develop a weather disaster plan before severe weather strikes.

