

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Working with neighbors can save lives and property. Meet with your neighbors to plan how the neighborhood could work together after a disaster until help arrives. If you're a member of a neighborhood organization, such as a home association or crime watch group, introduce disaster preparedness as a new activity. Know your neighbors' special skills (e.g., medical technical) and consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as disabled and elderly persons. Make plans for child care in case parents can't get home.

EVACUATION

Evacuate immediately if told to do so:

- Listen to your battery-powered radio and follow the instructions of local emergency officials.
- Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Take your Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Lock your home.
- Use travel routes specified by local authorities — don't use shortcuts because certain areas may be impassable or dangerous.

If you're sure you have time:

- Shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving, if instructed to do so.
- Post a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
- Make arrangements for your pets.

IF DISASTER STRIKES

- Remain calm and patient.
Put your plan into action.
- Check for injuries
Give first aid and get help for seriously injured people.
- Listen to your battery powered radio for news and instructions.
Evacuate, if advised to do so.
- Check for damage in your home . . .
Use flashlights — do not light matches or turn on electrical switches, if you suspect damage.
Check for fires, fire hazards and other household hazards.
Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows, and get everyone outside quickly.

Shut off any other damaged utilities.
Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline and other flammable liquids immediately.

- Remember to . . .
Confine or secure your pets.
Call your family contact — do not use the telephone again unless it is a life-threatening emergency.
Check on your neighbors, especially elderly or disable persons.
Make sure you have an adequate water supply in case service is cut off.
Stay away from downed power lines.

ESCAPE PLAN

In a fire or other emergency, you may need to evacuate your home on a moment's notice. You should be ready to get out fast.

Develop an escape plan by drawing a floor plan of your residence. Using a black or blue pen, show the location of doors, windows, stairways, and large furniture. Indicate the location of emergency supplies (Disaster Supplies Kit), fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, collapsible ladders, first aid kits and utility shut off points. Next use a colored pen to draw a broken line charting at least two escape routes from each room. Finally, mark a place outside of the home where household members should meet in case of fire.

Be sure to include important points outside such as garages, patios, stairways, elevators, driveways and porches. If your home has more than two floors, use an additional sheet of paper. Practice emergency evacuation drills with all household members at least two times each year.

TUNE IN TO:

Emergency Phone Numbers

Police, EMS & Fire 911
 Bexar County Telephone Emergency Bulletin 335-2258
 Bexar County Emergency Operations Center 335-0300
 San Antonio Emergency Operations Center . 207-8580

TV Stations

KMOL-TV Chl. 4/Cbl. 3
 KENS-TV Chl 5/Cbl. 5
 KSAT-TV Chl. 12/Cb.I. 13
 KABB - TV Chl. 29/Cbl. 11
 KWEX-TV Chl. 41/Cbl. 8

Radio Stations

KTSA AM 550

WOAI AM 1200
 KSTX FM 89.1

Bexar County Criminal
District Attorney's Office

Victims' Assistance

(210) 335-2105

The information in this brochure has been developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community and Family Preparedness Program and the American Red Cross Community Disaster Education Program.

www.co.bexar.tx.us/da



Family Emergency Plan

**Where will your family
be when disaster strikes?**

They could be anywhere

- at work**
- at school**
- or in the car!**

How will you find each other?

**Will you know if your
children are safe?**

This brochure can help!

**The District Attorney's Office recommends
4 Steps to Safety**



“Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. You may have to evacuate your neighborhood or become confined to your home. As a family, you can successfully cope with a disaster by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Follow the steps in this brochure to create your family’s emergency plan. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility. Please do not hesitate to contact my Victim Assistance office if there is anything we can help you with.

Susan D. Reed
District Attorney
Bexar County

1

Find Out What Could Happen to You

Contact your local emergency management or civil defense office and American Red Cross chapter — be prepared to take notes:

- Ask what types of disasters are most likely to happen. Request information on how to prepare for each.
- Learn about your community’s warning signals: what they sound like and what you should do when you hear them.
- Ask about animal care after a disaster. Animals may not be allowed inside emergency shelters due to health regulations.
- Find out how to help elderly or disabled persons, if needed.
- Next, find out about the disaster plans t your workplace, your children’s school or day care center and other places where your family spends time.

2

Create an Emergency Plan

Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for a disaster. Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather and earthquakes to children. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.

- Discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen. Explain what to do in each case.
- Pick two places to meet:
 1. Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
 2. Outside your neighborhood in case you can’t return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.
- Ask an out-of-state friend to be your “family contact.” After a disaster, it’s often easier to call long distance. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact’s phone number.
- Discuss what to do in an evacuation. Plan how to take care of your pets.

3

Complete This Checklist

- Post emergency telephone numbers by phones (fire, police, ambulance, etc.)
- Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local Emergency Medical Services number for emergency help.
- Show each family member how and when to turn off

the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.

- Check if you have adequate insurance coverage.
- Teach each family member how to use the fire extinguisher (ABC type), and show them where it’s kept.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Conduct a home hazard hunt.
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Take a Red Cross first aid and CPR class.
- Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room.
- Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

4

Practice and Maintain Your Plan

- Quiz your kids every six months so they remember what to do.
- Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.

Year	Drill Date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- Replace stored water every three months and stored food every six months.
- Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

Jan.	<input type="checkbox"/>	July	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feb.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mar.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sep.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct.	<input type="checkbox"/>
May	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nov.	<input type="checkbox"/>
June	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dec.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Change batteries in _____ each year.
(month)

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit with items you may need in an evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks, duffle bags or covered trash containers.

Include:

- A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won’t spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person, and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first aid kit that includes your family’s prescription medications.
- Emergency tools including a battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys and a credit card, cash or traveler’s checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- An extra pair of glasses.

Keep important family documents in a waterproof container. Keep a smaller kit in the trunk of your car.

HOME HAZARD HUNT

During a disaster, ordinary objects in your home can cause injury or damage. Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a home hazard. Inspect your home at least once a year and fix potential hazards.

- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections.
- Fasten shelves securely and brace overhead light fixtures.
- Place large, heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Hang pictures and mirrors away from beds.
- Strap water heater to wall studs.
- Repair cracks in ceilings or foundations.
- Store weed killers, pesticides and flammable products away from heat sources.
- Place oily polishing rags or waste in covered metal cans.
- Clean and repair chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors and gas vents.