



In Case of Emergency...

Preparation is the key to picking up the pieces when a disaster strikes. The information included below are some helpful suggestions on how you can protect yourself and your family from unnecessary distress.

WHAT TO DO?

- Be aware of the type of emergencies or disasters that are most likely to occur in your community and have a family disaster plan.
- Identify a family member or friend that lives outside of your area that will be your point of contact in an emergency situation. Let this person know your evacuation route, where you plan to shelter, and other important details regarding your plans during an emergency or natural disaster.
- If possible, it is a good idea for at least one member of your family to be trained in first aid and CPR.
- Coordinate early with family members that are disabled or elderly. If these individuals are living in a facility outside of your home, ensure you know their policies and procedures during any natural disasters or other emergencies.



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WHAT TO HAVE?

- Keep all important documents together in a safe spot that is easily accessible. Consider putting these items in a large plastic zipper bag to keep them dry.
- Important documents might include: insurance policies and cards, birth certificates, passports, social security cards, medication list and medical information, statutory durable powers of attorney, medical powers of attorney, directives to physicians, wills, and the deed to your home.
- Keep an emergency kit in your home containing basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Emergency kits often include batteries, flashlight, first aid kit, a week supply of medications, personal hygiene items, emergency cash, cell phone charger, baby and or pet supplies, extra set of car and house keys, extra pair of clothing and shoes. Store plenty of bottled water and non-perishable food items. It’s also a good idea to have a gallon of gas stored if evacuation is likely.
- Keep your pets tags current and keep a photo of your pet in case they get lost.

WHO TO CALL?

- For immediate disaster needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare, contact the American Red Cross (1-800-2767) or the United Way (dial 2-1-1 or go online to www.211.org).
- FEMA can provide financial assistance to persons affected by a federally declared disaster. If you live in an area declared a Major Disaster Area register with FEMA

within 60 days of the declaration of disaster by calling 1-800-621-3362 or going online to <http://www.fema.gov>.

- If you apply for FEMA assistance but disagree with FEMA’s decision regarding your claim, contact the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid Disaster Assistance Team by calling 1-866-757-1570.
- The Disaster Assistance Team also informs clients about other disaster-assistance programs for which they may be eligible.
- Call your local animal shelters in case your pet gets lost during evacuation:

- Call your personal insurance companies:
Flood Insurance Policy Information:

Homeowners Insurance Policy Information:

Health Insurance Policy Information:

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- To help locate missing loved ones, try calling local hospitals.
- Register on the American Cross Safe and Well Website available through www.redcross.org/safeandwell or call 1-866-438-9355 to let your family and friends know about your welfare.
- If you plan to go to an emergency shelter, remember that the facility may not allow pets so have a backup plan of family or friends who live outside the area that will host your pets during any emergency or natural disaster.