

# Are You and Your Family Prepared?

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Preparing makes sense. The likelihood that you and your family will survive a house fire depends as much on having a working smoke detector and an exit strategy, as on a well-trained fire department. The same is true for safely surviving violent weather or any other emergency disasters. This means having the proper tools and plan in place.

**Know Your Area.** Contact your local emergency management office or American Red Cross.

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

**Create a Plan.** Talk to your family, friends and neighbors, and discuss your plan. Explain to your children the dangers of fire and severe weather. Plan to share responsibilities and how to work as a team.

- Discuss possible disasters and what to do for each.
- Discuss how to escape safely in an evacuation and what to do with pets.
- Pick two places to meet. In the event of a fire, your family meeting place in front of your home. In the event of a disaster and you can not return home, a place you all agree upon.
- Ask an out-of-state friend to be your "family contact." Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are.

**Check This List Twice.**

- Keep emergency phone numbers near the phone. Teach your children how and why to call 9-1-1.
- Know how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- Know your insurance coverage.
- Make sure you have ABC fire extinguishers near the exits in the home and are aware how to use them.
- Install smoke alarms in each bedroom, in the halls outside the bedrooms and on every level of the home. Make sure they are NOT over 10 years old.
- Sign up for a free home safety survey @ 763-786-4436 from the Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department.
- Take a CPR class. Sign up at Blaine City Hall @ 763-784-6700. The cost is \$15.
- Determine the best escape routes from your home. Know two ways out from each room.
- Find "safe spots" in your home for each type of disaster.

**Make a Kit.** Have enough for 3 days.

- 1 Gallon of water per person, per day for drinking and sanitation.
- Supply of non-perishable food per person per day.
- Change of clothes, including preparing for extreme temperatures.
- First aid kit. Prescription medications and glasses.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper. This has many uses.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Radio and batteries.
- Can opener.
- Whistle.
- Wrench, pliers for turning off utilities.
- Flashlight, batteries.
- For a more complete list, go to [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)

**Practice, Practice, Practice!**

- The time to find out what to do is not during an emergency.

**For more local information:**

City of Blaine Emergency Preparedness Web Page-

[http://www.ci.blaine.mn.us/\\_InsideCityHall/\\_SafetyServices/\\_EmergencyPreparedness/EmergencyPreparedness\\_Home.htm](http://www.ci.blaine.mn.us/_InsideCityHall/_SafetyServices/_EmergencyPreparedness/EmergencyPreparedness_Home.htm)

*Homeland Security recommends, "Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed." It begins today!*