

September is...
**National
Preparedness
Month** Get a Kit, Make a Plan,
Be Informed and
Get Involved

Helpful Hints for Putting Together a Family Disaster Plan

Step 1: Emergency Planning and Communications

Natural disasters, including fires, are the number one hazard in our area, followed by HAZMAT accidents. You will either evacuate or shelter in place, depending on the incident and will need a disaster plan and disaster kits. We will put the kit together in steps over the next few weeks.

Evacuation- Draw a floor plan of your home and have two escape routes for each room in case of fire (show with arrows). Designate a meeting place nearby (like a neighbor's yard) to account for family members (put on floor plan in red). You need an alternate site to meet (store parking lot, park) when a disaster strikes and you can't return home (put on floor plan in orange). Show responsible family members how to shut off utilities to your home. Practice your plan so it will be familiar when needed.

Shelter In Place – Choose a safe room with the fewest or no windows to shelter in place during a chemical emergency or tornado warning. If you are instructed by authorities to "shelter in place", take your children and pets indoors immediately. This precaution will help keep you and your family safe while remaining in your home. Highlight your safe room on your floor plan and mark with an "S" in blue.

Choose an out of state friend or relative as the "check in" contact for when disaster strikes, which eliminates confusion in finding each other. In addition, program your ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact on your cell phone for responders. Complete a Family Communications Card (attached) to put in your wallet, purse or backpack.

Make copies of birth certificates, insurance cards, immunizations, house keys, animal picture(s) and vaccination records. Put in a safe place such as a safety deposit box but also store an extra set in a waterproof bag to put in your home Family Disaster "Go Kit" (stage 2).