

Disaster preparation begins with you

Is your neighborhood prepared for a disaster? Use this handy checklist to find out! Some of these items may be the responsibility of local governments or utility companies, but they cannot fix problems if they are unaware of them.

▶ Roads ◀

- Are roads properly maintained?
- Are roads kept clear of obstructions, such as parked cars and overhanging tree limbs, that would hinder emergency vehicle access?
- Is adequate turn-around space provided for emergency vehicles?
- Are broken or burned-out street lights repaired promptly?
- Are street signs properly installed and maintained?
- Are street signs easy to read?
- Is vegetation trimmed away from street signs?



**American
Red Cross**

▶ Fire Protection ◀

- Are fire hydrants clearly marked and kept clear of vegetation?
- Are fire hydrants inspected regularly and properly maintained?
- Are fire extinguishers in common areas properly located and inspected regularly?

▶ Drainage systems ◀

- Are ditches, culverts, and drainage systems kept clear of debris?
- Are ponds or lakes properly maintained?
- Is your neighborhood located in a special flood zone?

▶ Common Areas ◀

- Are common areas maintained properly?
- Are brush and tree limbs pruned away from playgrounds and picnic areas?
- Are barbeque grills kept in good repair and cleared of vegetation?
- Is there a secure place to store loose objects, such as swings, pool furniture, and picnic tables, that might be picked up by high winds? Is someone responsible for securing these items if severe weather is expected?
- Is there a public telephone in common areas to call for help in an emergency?

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► Inside ◀

- Do you have a home inventory? Is a copy safely stored at another location (office, safe deposit box, relative's house)?
- Have you installed smoke and carbon monoxide detectors? Do you test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year?
- Have you marked your children's bedroom windows with "Child Alert" decals for firefighters?
- Do you clean your dryer lint screen frequently?
- Are matches and lighters kept out of children's reach?
- Are flammable materials (rags, paints, gasoline, barbecue grill tanks) properly stored?
- Do you have fire extinguishers? Have they been inspected within the last year?
- Do you have an evacuation plan? Do you practice it at least once a year?
- Have you reviewed your insurance policies in the last year? Do you have flood insurance?
- Does at least one person in your household have current First Aid/CPR certification?

► Outside ◀

- Have you cleared 30' of space between your house and surrounding wooded areas?
- Have you removed dead and broken limbs from trees and large bushes and pruned tree limbs so they are at least 10' from the ground?
- Have you cleaned leaves and pine straw off the roof, out of the gutters, and away from air conditioning units?
- Are lawn furniture, children's toys, gardening tools, and trash cans stored away from stairs and exits?
- Do you have a secure place to store lawn furniture, toys, outside potted plants, trash cans and other items that could be picked up by high winds and become projectiles?
- Do you know how to turn off utilities (water, power, and gas)?
- Have you installed screening underneath elevated decks?
- Is your house number visible to firefighters, law enforcement, and other emergency workers?
- Do you have hurricane shutters or pre-cut plywood panels for all your windows and sliding glass or French doors?
- Is your driveway accessible to emergency vehicles (adequate clearance on the sides and overhead, no tight turns)? Is there turn-around space?

- If you live in a mobile home, have you inspected and tightened the tie-down straps in the last twelve months? Have you installed skirting underneath?

► Evacuation Plans ◀

Keep your evacuation supplies in one place: a garbage can, small footlocker, or large plastic box work well and can be carried easily if you have to evacuate. Children may want to put favorite toys, books, or games in a backpack.

- Do you have at least two exit routes from your neighborhood?
- Do you have a designated emergency meeting place?
- Have you identified a contact person who will notify relatives that you are safe?

