



The recent events of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma remind us that disasters cannot only change your life but in many instances your communities as well. It is important to know what to do if/when a disaster strikes so that you and your family are prepared.

Make a plan today! Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find.

Visit <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan> where you will find 4 steps you should follow:

- **Step 1: Put together a plan by discussing questions with your family, friends, or household to start your emergency plan.**

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my family/household communication plan?

- **Step 2: Consider specific needs in your household. Keep in mind some of these factors when developing your plan:**

- Different ages of members within your household
- Responsibilities for assisting others
- Locations frequented

- Dietary needs
- Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment
- Disabilities or access and function needs including devices and equipment
- Languages spoken
- Cultural and religious considerations
- Pets or service animals
- Households with school-aged children

- **Step 3: Fill out a Family Emergency Plan**

- Download and fill out a family emergency plan or use the guides on this link to create your own plan. Check out this link to find sample communication plans.

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1440449346150-1ff18127345615d8b7e1effb4752b668/Family_Comm_Plan_508_20150820.pdf

- **Step 4: Practice your plan with your family/household**

You never know when a disaster will strike, and you may only have a few minutes to react, so make sure everyone in your family knows what to do and where to go.