Developing a Family Disaster Plan

Action
Take care of utilities

Suggestions
- Locate and show all adults where and how to shut off main utility valves for water, gas electricity.
- Install smoke detectors on each floor, especially near bedrooms; test and replace batteries once a year.
- Teach family members how to use fire extinguishers and show them where they are kept. Test extinguishers once a year.

Action
Be a good neighbor

Suggestions
- Meet with your neighbors to plan how to work together in case of an emergency.
- Know your neighbors’ special needs or skills, such as medical or technical.
- Make plans for each other’s children in case a parent is not able to get home.

Contact Oklahoma Volunteers In Mission for information on all of these programs and more.

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Prior to a disaster, you and your family members should prepare a response plan that addresses specifically what you will do during a disaster event.
Developing a Family Disaster Plan

In this brochure are some action plans to help you and your family develop a plan to use in the case of an emergency event.

**Action**

**Educate yourself and your family**

- **Suggestions**
  - Talk to your local emergency management agencies and the American Red Cross chapter about:
    - Types of disasters likely to affect the community and how to prepare for them
    - Community warning systems and evacuation plans
    - Animal care during and after a disaster
    - Taking responsibility for elderly and disabled persons
    - Disaster plans at work places, schools, daycare centers, or other places where your family spends time
  - Be sure you have adequate insurance coverage.
  - Conduct a home hazard hunt to identify anything that can move, fall, break, or cause a fire.
  - Take a Red Cross first aid and CPR class.

- **Action**
  - Create a family plan and practice it
  - **Suggestions**
    - Identify “safe rooms” or shelter areas for violent weather and earthquakes.
    - Determine the best escape routes out of the safe rooms/shelter areas.

**Action**

**Store adequate supplies**

- **Suggestions**
  - Store supplies in a sturdy, pest-free container and place in an accessible location
  - Water for 3-5 days (one gallon per-person-per-day, in a plastic container). Mark date of storage on container, and replace every three months.
  - Non-perishable foods for 3-5 days, including pet food if applicable. Replace every six months.
  - Manual can opener
  - Flashlights with extra batteries
  - Extra pair of prescription eyeglass, contact lenses (and cleaning solution)
  - Battery-operated radio or T.V. and extra batteries
  - Prescription drugs that are used regularly
  - First-aid kit
  - Extra set of car keys
  - One blanket or sleeping bag per person
  - Information (style, serial number, etc.) on critical medical devices (respirator, pacemaker, etc.)
  - Small amount of cash and a credit card
  - Children’s toys games books pictures etc.
  - Extra battery for cell phone
  - Sanitation supplies
  - Special items for infants/elderly/disabled
  - One change of clothing and footwear per person
  - Sanitation supplies
  - Original documents should be kept in a safe deposit box.

**Action**

**Create a home exit plan and evacuation box**

- **Suggestions**
  - Create basic floor plan of home and clearly mark exits to be used for emergencies. Post in each room.
  - Create an evacuation box to “grab and go” in a waterproof container.
    - Include:
      - Small amount of cash
      - Irreplaceable photos/back-up of digital files
      - Written inventory of valuable possessions (updated annually)
      - Insurance policy numbers and company phone numbers
      - Copies of other important family or home documents and contact list
      - Copies of prescriptions
      - Copies of important legal documents (wills, birth certificates, immunization records)
      - First two pages of prior two years’ tax returns, etc.

**Action**

In this brochure are some action plans to help you and your family develop a plan to use in the case of an emergency event.