

Some Of The Things You Can Do
 To prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an emergency supply kit and having an emergency plan are the same for all types of emergency. However, it's important to stay informed about what might happen in your region. For more information on different types of emergencies, visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY.

Use this information to your advantage and make every effort to follow the instructions received from authorities on the radio. Stay calm, be patient and think clearly. With these simple preparations, you'll be ready for the unexpected.

For Emergencies Now. Information For Older Americans.

www.ready.gov

This was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in consultation with AARP, the American Red Cross and the National Organization on Disability.



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Preparing Makes Sense for Older Americans. Get Ready Now.

The likelihood that you and your family will recover from an emergency tomorrow often depends on the planning and preparation done today. While each person's abilities and needs are unique, every individual can take steps to prepare for all kinds of emergencies from fires and floods to potential terrorist attacks. By evaluating your own personal needs and making an emergency plan that fits those needs, you and your loved ones can be better prepared. This guide outlines commonsense measures older Americans can take to start preparing for emergencies before they happen. Preparing makes sense for older Americans.

Get Ready Now.

Of Emergency Supplies

The first step is to consider how an emergency might affect your individual needs. It's possible that you will not have access to a medical facility or even a drugstore. Think about what you and your family think about the types of resources you use on a daily basis and what you might do if those resources are not available.

Basic Supplies: Think first about what you need for survival – food, water, clean air and other sustaining items you require. Consider two kits: one put everything you will need in one kit put everything you will need where you are and make it on your own period of time. The other kit should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take if you have to leave your home. Recommended basic emergency supplies include:

- ▶ Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ▶ Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and a can opener if kit includes canned food
- ▶ Battery-powered or hand crank NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- ▶ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ▶ First aid kit
- ▶ Whistle to signal for help
- ▶ Dust mask to help filter contaminants; plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place
- ▶ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic liners for personal sanitation
- ▶ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ▶ Local maps
- ▶ Pet food, extra water and supplies

time or use a medical treatment on your own for at least a week. So keep a copy of your prescriptions and treatment information. If it is possible to have a week-long supply of supplies, keep as much as possible. Talk to your pharmacist or doctor to see you should do to prepare.

For routine treatments administered by a hospital or if you receive regular services for health care, treatment or surgery, talk to your service provider about your plans. Work with them to identify service providers within your area and the location to evacuate to. If you use medical equipment at home that requires electricity to operate, talk to your health care provider about how to do to prepare for its use during a disaster.

Items: In addition, there may be items specific to your personal needs that you should have on hand. If you use a wheelchair, hearing aids, and hearing aid batteries, and oxygen, be sure you have extras in your home. Also have your medical insurance, Medicare and Medicaid cards readily available.

Emergency Documents: Include important documents in your emergency kit such as family records, wills, power of attorney, deeds, social security numbers, bank information, and tax records. It is a good idea to keep these documents in a waterproof container. Include the names and numbers of members of your personal support network, as well as service providers. Also be sure you have cash on hand in your kits in case you need to use them.

For What You Will Do in an Emergency

The reality of a disaster situation is that you will likely not have access to everyday conveniences. To plan in advance, think through the details of your everyday life. If there are people who assist you on a daily basis, list who they are, and how you will contact them in an emergency. Create your own personal support network by identifying others who will help you in an emergency. Think about what modes of transportation you use and what alternative modes could serve as back-ups. If you require handicap accessible transportation be sure your alternatives are also accessible. For every aspect of your daily routine, plan an alternative procedure. Make a plan and write it down. Keep a copy of your plan in your emergency supply kits and a list of important information and contacts in your wallet. Share your plan with your family, friends, care providers and others in your personal support network.

Create a Personal Support Network: If you anticipate needing assistance during a disaster, make a list of family, friends and others who will be part of your plan. Talk to these people and ask them to be part of your support network. Share each aspect of your emergency plan with everyone in your group, including a friend or relative in another area who would not be impacted by the same emergency who can help if necessary. Make sure everyone knows how you plan to evacuate your home or workplace and where you will go in case of a disaster. Make sure that someone in your personal support network has an extra key to your home and knows where you keep your emergency supplies. Practice your plan with those who have agreed to be part of your personal support network.

Develop a Family Communications Plan: Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations. Consider a plan where each family member calls, or e-mails, the same friend or relative in the event of an emergency. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact, not in the impacted area, may

be a good choice. If the phone system may be down altogether, but be patient. For more information on how to develop a family communications plan visit www.ready.gov.

Deciding to Stay or Go: Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the first important decision is whether you stay or go. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use commonsense and available information to determine if there is immediate danger. In any emergency, local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should monitor television or radio news reports for information or official instructions as they become available. If you're specifically told to evacuate or seek medical treatment, do so immediately. If you require additional travel time or need transportation assistance, make these arrangements in advance.

Consider Your Pets: Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets and service animals. Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you, if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that only service animals may be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets; consider loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area, pet-friendly shelters and veterinarians who would be willing to take in you and your pets in an emergency. For more information about pet preparedness, visit www.ready.gov.

Staying Put: Whether you are at home or elsewhere, there may be situations when it's simply best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside. Consider what you can do to safely shelter-in-place alone or with friends, family or neighbors. Also consider how a shelter designated for the public would meet your needs.

There could be times when you will need to stay put and create a barrier between yourself and potentially

dangerous situations. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the area is badly contaminated, you may want to take immediate action. For more information about "sheltering in place," visit www.ready.gov.

Evacuation: There may be conditions when you will decide to get away, or there may be situations when you may be ordered to evacuate. Think about how you will get away and anticipate where you will go. Choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in an emergency. Ask about evacuation plans at the places you spend time including work, community organizations and other places you frequent. Typically rely on elevators, have a back-up plan in case they are not working.

Fire Safety: Plan two ways out of every room in case of fire. Check for items such as books, hanging pictures, or overhead lights that could fall and block an escape path. Check hallways, stairwells, doorways, windows and other exits for hazards that may keep you from safely exiting the building during an emergency. Secure furniture and objects that may block your path. There are aspects of preparing your home and workplace that you are not able to do yourself. Enlist the help of your personal support network.

Contact Your Local Emergency Information Management Office: Contact your local emergency management offices and registers of older people so they can be reached and assisted quickly in a disaster. Contact your local emergency management agency to find out if these services exist where you live or visit www.ready.gov to find links to government resources in your area.

