



Family Emergency Planning



Step 1: Make Sure You Receive Emergency Alerts

- Wireless Emergency Alerts - On cellphones. If it is not already on, go to settings and search for it. It will probably be under the “Notifications” section, labeled “Government Alerts” or “Emergency Alert Messages.” Alerts will show up as notifications similar to text messages, but with an accompanying sound meant to get your attention. Older phones may lack this setting.
- Emergency Alert System - National public warning broadcasted to cable systems and more. Allows the president and FEMA to warn about disasters.
- NOAA Weather Radio - Nationwide Radio Stations. Every area has a specific station that will broadcast local weather news, warnings, and updates 24/7. (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/data-access/land-based-station-data/find-station>)



Source: <https://appletoolbox.com/how-to-get-emergency-alerts-on-your-iphone/>

Step 2: Make An Emergency Prep Kit

- See CREW's At Home Emergency Preparedness Kit flyer for instructions and information.

Step 3: Make a Family Communication Plan

- Have a paper copy of any important documents, as well as relevant contact information (family, important friends, medical providers, and places of school or work). Include an out-of-town contact who can help coordinate your own family's information if there is a communication breakdown due to overwhelmed local cell phone systems.
- Write down your meeting places. (See Step 4.)
- Have a copy for every member of your household to carry around, whether in a safe jacket pocket, backpack, car, and/or bag.
- For a printable emergency plan to fill out: <http://ready.gov/make-a-plan>

Step 4: Make a Family Evacuation Plan

- Make sure everyone in your family knows the different places to meet:
 - Indoor: Choose somewhere small, windowless, and on the ground level within your home or building.
 - In your neighborhood (if your home is unsafe/unaccessible): Could be a neighbor's house or a recognizable tree across the street from your home.
 - Outside your neighborhood (if your neighborhood is unsafe/unaccessible): A community center, library, or other community buildings are great options.
 - Outside your town: If your town must evacuate, think of the home of a relative or friend where your family could go. Make sure to write down their address.
- Map out how your family will get to each place. Include multiple routes. And practice it!



Step 5: Include Your Kids in the Process

Making sure your child knows about weather safety and your family's plan is a crucial part of any emergency planning. Here are some ways to talk to your kid about climate change, extreme weather, and how they can stay safe.

- Don't scare them! Explain that they are safe and that plans are a precaution.
- Physically practice evacuation routes with them, and ask them to memorize numbers and addresses.
- Give them a paper with emergency contact information to keep in their jacket or backpack.
- Explain the most likely weather threats in your region, and what to do during these events. For example, if you live in an area prone to extreme heat, make sure your child knows to drink water and stay in places with air conditioning.
- Use weather catchphrases, like "When thunder roars, go indoors!" or "Turn around, don't drown!"
- Set a good example by monitoring and listening to local weather alerts and instructions yourself.
- Include your child in the process of making an emergency prep kit, such as allowing them to choose a puzzle or specific food to put in.
- Have them mark a calendar for when your family should update the kit.
- If you want to explain aspects of climate change to your child, such as the greenhouse gas effect, use metaphors. For instance, describe the greenhouse gas effect like layers of blankets: the earth needs one blanket, but humans are causing emissions that create four or five blankets, which is too much heat.

Is this all really necessary?

The short answer: YES!

As human-made climate change worsens, our communities will start to see even more changes, big and small. Rising sea levels, changing temperature patterns, and more will create harsher storms and weather conditions that we haven't experienced before. Making sure your family knows how to stay safe is crucial, and it's easy to keep up with! Just remember these simple steps and check in with your family a couple times a year to make sure everyone feels confident and safe with your emergency kit, evacuation routes, and communication plan.

For more information, visit:
<https://www.ready.gov/plan> and
www.climatecrew.org