

- **Personal Items** – comfort and hygiene items like a change of clothing, toiletries, hand sanitizer, blankets, games, puzzles and books.
- **Clean Air Supplies** – masks to cover nose and mouth, plastic sheeting, and duct tape in case the air is hazardous or contaminated.
- **Lighting & Communication** – flashlights, portable radio, extra batteries, cell phone charger, and a whistle.
- **Evacuation Supplies** – road maps and basic tools for car repair.

### Special needs items:

- **For Babies** – formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk, medications, baby wipes and diaper rash ointment.
- **For adults with special needs** – consult a doctor about prescription drugs; include supplies for dentures, contact lenses and hearing aids. Plan for continuing special treatments, such as dialysis.
- **For Pets** – a 3-day supply of food and water, leash, crate, vaccination records, cleaning supplies, ID tags, and current photos in case you are separated.



## INFORMATION

Whether it is a severe storm or man-made disaster, you need to stay informed. Know what types of emergencies are common in your area and how to prepare for those conditions. Ask local officials about the threats that face your area and how to best prepare for them.

Find sources that will keep you up-to-date on the situation. Learn the difference between a watch and a warning. A watch means that dangerous conditions are possible. A warning means it's about to happen; seek shelter now. Local television, radio and NOAA Weather Radio should provide emergency weather information. You can find additional resources online.

### Summary

Basic preparation can help keep your family safe in any type of emergency. Make a plan and gather essentials now to avoid a truly disastrous situation. You never know when a disaster will strike. Be prepared.

**Go to [TexasPrepares.org](http://TexasPrepares.org) today, or dial 2-1-1 for more information.**

WHEN DISASTER  
**HITS**  
WILL YOU BE  
**READY?**

**READY  
OR NOT?**

**HAVE A PLAN**

You never know when you might be faced with an emergency. The best way to keep your family safe is to prepare in advance. Making a plan will help protect your family in any type of disaster.



## FAMILY

Disasters can strike quickly without warning. Your family may not be together in the same place when it happens, so it is important to plan for a disaster or emergency in advance.

- **Emergency Contacts** – people to call to help you reunite with your family and stay informed on the situation. Write down all this information now, before an emergency hits.
- **Meeting Place** – places, both near home and out-of-town, to meet up with your family in case you are separated.
- **Evacuation Plan** – if you are told to leave home, know possible evacuation routes and how to turn off your home's utilities.

Once you have a plan, practice it. Involve your family so they know what to do, where to meet and whom to contact. Consider special needs: babies, elders and disabled persons. And be sure to plan for pets too.

- **Children** – make sure they know the plan and important emergency contacts.
- **Elderly & Disabled** – plan for health and safety needs that these individuals have.
- **Pets** – make sure you have what you need to keep track of and care for your pet.



## ESSENTIALS

You need to have essential supplies that will support you and your family during all types of emergency situations.



- **Grab & Go Kit** – There are documents and files you don't want to lose. Such items include birth certificates, leases or deeds, insurance policies, and medical and financial records. Keep a copy of these documents in a watertight plastic bag.
- **Disaster Kit** – Whether you are staying at home or evacuating to a safer location, you will need certain items to take care of your family. Gather your supplies and store them in portable containers.

### A basic kit should include:

- **Food & Water** – a 3-day supply of foods that need no refrigeration or cooking such as protein bars, dried fruits, nuts, crackers and canned goods; two gallons of drinking water per family member per day.
- **First Aid & Medication** – items such as sterile gloves, gauze, soap, pain relievers, antibiotic towelettes, ointment, and bandages to treat minor injuries plus prescription medications and supplies to take care of pre-existing conditions.