

# making a family plan for disasters & emergencies

For more state and federal information on emergency and disaster planning:

- [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)
  - [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
  - [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
  - [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- or call your local Red Cross office.

The National Weather Service broadcasts warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day.

Weather radios may be purchased at electronic, department or large discount stores.

## EVALUATE

**Identify potential threats in your community**, such as the location of flood-prone areas, power plants and hazardous chemicals.

**Discuss how natural and man-made threats could affect your family.**

Evaluate your property's vulnerability to hazards, such as storm surge, flooding, wildfire and wind.

**Check your insurance coverage.** Flood damage, for example, is not covered by a homeowner's insurance policy. It must be purchased ahead of time to be applicable.

## PREPARE

**Use this guide as a tool for preparing.** Check websites contained in this guide to get more information specific to your family's needs.

**Identify the safest areas of your home for each threat.** In many circumstances, the safest area may not be your home but elsewhere in your community. During times of evacuation you will be given instructions on evacuation routes.

**Specify escape routes from your home and places to meet (rally points)**, such as a neighbor's home, a school or a public location.

**Make a plan for evacuating** the area if required. See page 7.

**Designate an out-of-area contact—friend or family member—**so that each of your immediate family members has the same single point of contact. Plan to have at least two means of communication (e.g., email, phone, cell phone).

**Make a plan for your pets** should you need to evacuate. Most shelters will accept service animals.

**Fill out the Family Emergency Information** in the yellow, center pull-out section, pages 4–7.

**Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones** and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.

**Assemble and maintain a Disaster Supply Kit.** See pages 3–6 and center pull-out section. A battery-powered weather radio equipped with a special alarm tone feature is a vital tool. During an emergency, National Weather Service forecasters will interrupt routine weather radio programming and send out the special tone that activates weather radios in the listening area.

**Take first aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.**

## MONITOR & ACT

When a disaster occurs, **listen to news sources** for information and instructions.

**Evacuate or seek medical attention** quickly if authorities tell you to do so. If you can get no information, determine as best you can if you are in a danger area.

Whether you stay or evacuate, **don't panic.** Follow your family plan.