

Checklist for Home Preparedness

Plan	YES	NO
Develop an escape plan that covers every room in the house and considers the needs of children and physically challenged individuals.		
Pick two places to meet (near home and outside the neighborhood).		
Choose an out-of-state "check-in contact" for everyone to call.		
Identify an evacuation destination.		
Plan two evacuation routes (in case your primary route is impassable).		
Identify the nearest shelter location.		
Plan how to take care of your pets (generally not allowed in shelters).		
Find safe places in the home for each type of disaster.		
Make sure that you have adequate insurance coverage.		
Inventory your property to help prove the value of items damaged or destroyed in a disaster.		
Review your plan periodically and update, if necessary.		
Practice	YES	NO
Discuss the plan with all family members.		

Conduct family practices (fire drills, taking shelter, following evacuation routes).		
Make sure that family members know where fire extinguishers are and how to use them.		
Show responsible family members how and when to shut off water, gas, and electricity at main switches.		
Quiz children every six months to be sure that they remember the plan.		
Prepare	YES	NO
Post emergency numbers by every phone.		
Locate and label utility shutoffs.		
Install smoke alarms on every level (especially near bedrooms).		
Test smoke alarms monthly, change batteries twice a year.		
Check fire extinguishers according to manufacturer's instructions.		
Prepare a safe room for sheltering in place.		
Photocopy vital documents. Keep originals in a safe deposit box, store one copy at home, and give a copy to someone out of town.		
Assemble a disaster supply kit.		
Coordinate with Neighbors	YES	NO
Plan how neighbors can work together after a disaster.		

Identify neighbors' skills (e.g., medical or technical).		
Identify neighbors with special needs (e.g., elderly, disabled) who may need help in an emergency.		
Make plans for child care in case parents can't get home.		