



## During Disaster

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The key to surviving a disaster is to calmly, yet quickly, execute the specific plan for the disaster you are experiencing.

### If disaster strikes

- ◆ Remain calm and patient
- ◆ Put your disaster plan into action
- ◆ Provide assistance to those with special needs in accordance with your plan
- ◆ Check for injuries
- ◆ Listen to local news for information and instruction

### Quick reference for potential hazards

#### Fire

- ◆ Only fight small fires not in danger of blocking exit
- ◆ Use back of hand to check if doors are hot
- ◆ Crawl under smoke
- ◆ If trapped, close door, hang a sheet from the window
- ◆ Meet at your designated spot
- ◆ Never re-enter a burning building
- ◆ Call 911 from a neighbor's house

#### Tornado

- ◆ During a watch, be attentive to weather conditions
- ◆ Take immediate shelter if a warning is issued
- ◆ Go to basement or internal hallway
- ◆ Avoid windows, glass or potential flying objects
- ◆ Leave windows closed
- ◆ Monitor media and follow directions from local officials

#### Flood

- ◆ During a watch, prepare to evacuate
- ◆ During a flash flood warning, evacuate immediately using primary or alternate evacuation route
- ◆ Fill empty containers and bathtub with water, in case of contamination
- ◆ Avoid flood waters and areas prone to flooding
- ◆ Never drive onto flooded roads
- ◆ Shut off liquefied petroleum tanks at source
- ◆ Monitor media and follow directions from local officials

#### Chemical Release/Biological Event

- ◆ Listen to news for instructions: FOLLOW THEM
- ◆ Prepare to evacuate and have shelter in place
- ◆ Stay away from victims until threat is identified
- ◆ Stay upwind, take shallow breaths through a towel
- ◆ Avoid possible contaminated food, water and areas

## After the Disaster

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The emotions following a disaster can be devastating. It is crucial to the safety of your family to remain calm, listen for and then follow official instructions.

### After

- ◆ Follow plan for specific disaster
- ◆ Listen to news reports for information and instruction
- ◆ Assess condition of house using a flashlight, not an open flame
- ◆ Do not enter an unsafe structure
- ◆ Smell for gas leaks, starting with water heater
- ◆ Shut off any damaged utilities
- ◆ Clean up any hazardous or flammable spills
- ◆ Treat injuries
- ◆ Notify local and out-of-town contacts, then only use phone to report life-threatening emergencies
- ◆ Document damage for insurance claims

### Shelter in place

In some emergencies, particularly with chemical, biological or terrorist incidents, local officials may advise you to “shelter in place.” If this is the case, gather your family and supply kit inside. Use a towel or damp cloth to provide some breathing protection. Close all windows and doors and fireplace dampers. Shut off all fans and heating and air conditioning systems. Unless otherwise directed, move to an interior room above ground level and seal any window and door cracks and vents with duct tape. Wait for instructions from authorities.

American Red Cross  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Ohio Emergency Management Agency  
Ohio Emergency Medical Services  
Ohio Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizens Corps  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)  
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# OHIO FAMILY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

**FIRE FLOOD TORNADO TERRORISM**

**Remember, Preparation = Survival**

[www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov)



## Identify Hazards

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The first step in creating a disaster plan is to identify what types of disasters could happen to you. Your local fire and police departments, Emergency Management Agency, public health agency or disaster relief organization are good sources of information in assessing community risks.

### Questions to ask

Q: What types of disasters are most likely to happen in your home or community?

A: Flooding is the most frequent natural disaster that occurs in Ohio. Others include lightning storms, tornadoes, snow/ice storms, fires, extreme heat, and drought.

Q: What are your best sources of information to alert you to a disaster?

A: The best source is an NOAA weather radio. Weather radios can be programmed to report weather watches and warnings in your surrounding area. Other reliable sources for weather updates include the Emergency Alert System available on local television and radio stations, The Weather Channel and outdoor warning sirens.

Q: What are the community warning signals and what do they mean?

A: Most counties test their warning signals/sirens every Wednesday at noon. Radio and television stations occasionally test the Emergency Alert System. A storm watch indicates that conditions are favorable for a particular severe weather event. A storm warning indicates that a particular weather hazard is either imminent or occurring. A warning means people need to take action to protect their lives and property.

Q: Is there a need for special planning to accommodate an elderly or disabled person?

A: Yes. Individuals with special needs should let their needs or limitations be known (recorded) at their local police and fire departments and their county emergency management agency. If possible, individuals with special needs should build a relationship with their neighbors so they can check on or notify them during times of disaster.

Q: What options are available for animal care after a crisis?

A: As a general rule, pets are not permitted at shelters or recovery centers. As part of a family disaster plan, include pet care. List nearby boarding kennels; leave enough food, water and shelter to sustain pets for 72 hours; or have a listing of hotels that accept pets, if forced to evacuate.

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Involving the whole family when developing your plan is essential. Explain the dangers and the necessity for a plan. Use the same agencies in the “Identify Hazards” section to develop specific responses. Commit your plan to paper and educate each member of the family on how and when it is used.

### Points to remember

- ◆ Develop a response to each hazard identified below
- ◆ Develop a list of emergency numbers, including someone out-of-town that you can contact following a disaster. Teach children when and how to use these numbers.
- ◆ Establish a meeting place immediately outside your home, as well as an out-of-area destination in case you cannot return home immediately
- ◆ Assemble a disaster supplies kit
- ◆ Conduct a “home hazard hunt”
- ◆ Learn when and how to shut off water, gas and electricity
- ◆ Install smoke detectors on each level of your home
- ◆ Know two ways out of every room
- ◆ Incorporate any special needs for the elderly or disabled
- ◆ Plan how to care for pets following a disaster

### Some possible types of disasters

Natural		Accidental	Intentional
Blizzard	Mudslide	Fire	Bombing
Earthquake	Tornado	Transportation	Biological
Flood		Chemical Release	Chemical
Heat Wave		Radiological	Shooting

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## Practice Plan

Even the best plan is useless unless it has been practiced and maintained. Routinely review, practice and update your plans.

### Schedule

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| Monthly          | ◆ Check smoke detectors  |
| Every six months | ◆ Review and practice disaster plan with family<br>◆ Conduct fire drills<br>◆ Replace batteries, clean smoke detectors<br>◆ Replace food and water in supply kit |
| Annually         | ◆ Check if fire extinguisher is fully charged<br>◆ Conduct a home hazard hunt  |

### The home hazard hunt

- ◆ Maintain working smoke detectors
- ◆ Secure propane gas tanks
- ◆ Keep heavy or breakable items low to the ground/floor
- ◆ Keep exit routes clear
- ◆ Avoid excess clutter/trash in and near house
- ◆ Secure mobile home foundation
- ◆ Secure hanging items
- ◆ Safely store poisonous or hazardous items
- ◆ Ensure utility connections are in good shape
- ◆ Check for fire hazards

### Disaster supplies kit — prepare a three-day supply

Water	Nonperishable food	First aid kit	Clothing & bedding	Sanitation items	Tools	Special items
One gallon per person per day	Canned meats, fruits, vegetables, soups, juices, canned or powdered milk, peanut butter, crackers, granola bars, trail mix	Include prescription medication	One change of clothing and footwear per person; blankets or sleeping bags	Personal hygiene items, plastic garbage bags and ties, bucket w/lid, disinfectant, bleach	Flashlight & radio with extra batteries, NOAA weather radio, manual can opener, ABC-type fire extinguisher, wrench, signal flare, duct tape	Baby needs, extra eyeglasses, cash or travelers checks, books & games, personal papers/documents

Emergency numbers	Family contact
FIRE	LOCAL
POLICE	NON-LOCAL
HOSPITAL	<b>Meeting place</b>
POISON 1-800-222-1222	OUTSIDE HOUSE
LOCAL POISON	OUTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD