



Each year, the American Red Cross responds to more than 60,000 disasters across the country. Regardless of the time of year, having a disaster preparedness plan is always a good idea. Making specific preparations will help maintain household safety in the event of an emergency.

**Keep these important preparations in mind to maximize safety in the event of a disaster:**

- **Make a survival kit.** If disaster strikes, electricity may be lost, or it may be unsafe to leave home. Make sure to have a two-week supply of non-perishable food (canned items, cereal, nuts) and water, a flashlight, plenty of batteries and a first aid kit on hand.
- **Stay aware of common local disasters.** Learn which types of disasters are most likely to occur in your area during different times of year. Knowing which types of emergencies to prepare for will allow for more effective disaster preparedness planning.
- **Develop a specific plan.** Determine which emergencies may require sheltering in place or evacuation. If evacuation may be required, decide where to go and plan a safe route to get there. Ensure that disaster preparedness plans accommodate everyone in the household, especially older adults, people with disabilities, children and pets.
- **Prepare a to-go bag.** In the event that evacuation is necessary, have a to-go bag packed with extra medications, pet supplies, copies of important documents, extra clothing, personal hygiene items and extra cash, so that none of these important items get left behind.