





Emergencies and Disasters


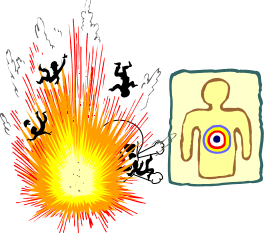




Vocabulary

			
an ambulance	a police car	a helicopter	a fire truck
<i>ambulances</i>	<i>police cars</i>	<i>helicopters</i>	<i>fire trucks</i>

			
a paramedic	a police officer	a fireman	a tow truck
<i>paramedics</i>	<i>police officers</i>	<i>firemen</i>	<i>tow trucks</i>

			
a sinkhole	a hurricane	a flood	lightning
<i>sinkholes</i>	<i>hurricanes</i>	<i>floods</i>	<i>lightning</i>

			
poison	terrorism	a gun and a bullet	an accident
<i>poisons</i>	a terrorist attack	<i>guns and bullets</i>	<i>accidents</i>

Pronunciation

-op	-ap	-ip	-up	-all
top	tap	tip	up	call
stop	map	slip	pup	ball
hop	lap	ship	cup	fall
mop	happy	hip		tall

-ire	-ime	police	-uck	-ar
fire	time	policeman	truck	car
tire	crime	police officer	luck	bar
hire	lime	police car	stuck	far
wire	dime	police radio	duck	star

Clap the Stress

x X x x	x X x	x X x x X!
emergency	a tow truck	A house is on fire!
an ambulance	policeman	A man has a gun!
an accident	a robber	My husband is hurt!
a hurricane	a fireman	My pickup is gone!
a robbery	A sinkhole	My children are sick!
a thunder storm	tornado	I can't find my son!

If It's an Emergency, Call 911

This is an auto accident.
The two cars ran into each other.
The drivers may be hurt.
Other people may be hurt.



If you see an accident like this, call 911.

The 911 number is only for emergencies.
.A bad accident is an emergency because someone may be hurt.

Use 911 for emergencies like accidents.
Use 911 for emergencies like fires.
Use 911 for floods or tornadoes.
Use 911 for crime or if someone suddenly gets very sick.



Remember, 911 is only for emergencies.

You do not have to pay for a 911 call.
You can make a 911 call at any pay phone—
for free. Just dial 911. You can dial 911 from your home or office phone, too.



This 911 call taker works in the Miami-Dade Police Department. There are many 911 call takers in Pinellas County, too.

When you call 911, be prepared to tell the call taker:

- What is wrong (explain the emergency)
- What help you need (fire, police, ambulance)
- Where you are
- Your name and address

Remember, 911 is only for emergencies such as bad accidents, fires, a heart attack, or when someone has a gun and is shooting at people.

Conversations

1. Person 1: 911. What is your emergency?
- Person 2: **A man has a gun! He's shooting at people!**
- Person 1: Where is he?
- Person 2: **In front of my house--425 17th Avenue North.**
- Person 1: The police are on their way. **DO NOT HANG UP!**

2. Person 1: 911. What is your emergency?
- Person 2: **My child just fell into a big sinkhole. I can't get her out!**



- Person 1: Where is the sinkhole?
- Person 2: **In front of my house.**
- Person 1: The police will be there soon. How old is your child?
- Person 2: **Six years old.**
- Person 1: Is anyone with her?
- Person 2: **No.**
- Person 1: Go out and tell her that someone is coming to help her out. Tell her not to cry. Try to keep her calm.

REMEMBER: 911 is for EMERGENCIES only. Call 911 if you see or hear:

- ✓ a robber in your home now
- ✓ shootings
- ✓ fires
- ✓ a gang fight
- ✓ a bad traffic accident

Reading and Writing about Emergencies

Some Emergencies are Natural Disasters:



an earthquake
earthquakes

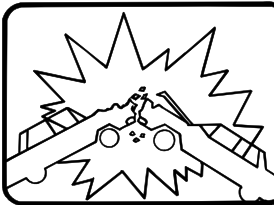


a sinkhole
sinkholes

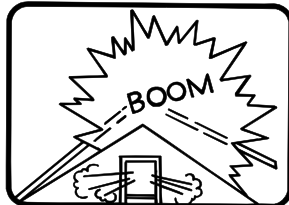


a hurricane
hurricanes

Some Emergencies are Man-Made:



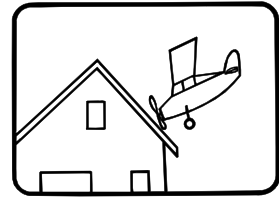
a car accident
(accidents)



an explosion
(explosions)



a building on fire



a plane crashing
into a building

Comprehension Check

Which of these have you been in? Mark (X) all that apply:

- an earthquake a flood a tornado a hurricane
 a fire a volcano a terrorist attack
 a war an auto accident

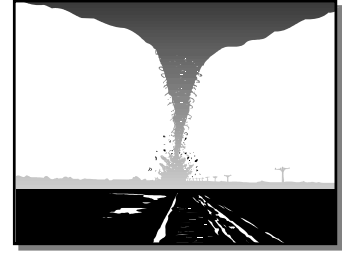
Have you ever been struck by lightning? yes no

Have you ever had a heart attack? yes no

Have you ever called 911? yes no

What Is an Emergency?

An emergency is a problem that happens suddenly and needs quick action. An emergency usually happens with no warning. It is bad. There is danger. Someone is hurt. Someone needs help.



Natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods are emergencies. Man-made disasters such as fires, car accidents, and terrorist attacks also are emergencies.

In case of emergency, dial 911. Use 911 to get the police or the fire department or an ambulance.

Comprehension Check

Read each sentence. If it is an emergency, circle YES. If it is not an emergency, circle NO.

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Your house is on fire. | YES | NO |
| 2. Someone's radio is on too loud. | YES | NO |
| 3. A sinkhole has appeared in the street. | YES | NO |
| 4. A dog is in front of your house. It is not your dog. | YES | NO |
| 5. A child falls from a large tree. He is hurt badly. | YES | NO |
| 6. Someone just broke a window in your neighbor's house. You have never seen this person before. | YES | NO |
| 7. There is a lot of lightning and thunder. | YES | NO |
| 8. Lightning strikes a parked car. | YES | NO |
| 9. You'd like a ride to your doctor's office. | YES | NO |
| 10. Two men are fighting. One has a gun. | YES | NO |

Look in the Phone Book for Your Emergency Numbers

This is from a phone book.
It is from the *white pages*.
It's about emergencies.

Look in Your Phone Book

Do this today. It might save your life.
It might save the life of someone in your family.

Look in the front of the phone book.
Look for something that says EMERGENCY CALLS. Usually this is 911.

Your phone book tells what numbers are right for you.
Write the phone numbers you should use for:

Police: _____

Poison Information: _____

Fire: _____

Ambulance: _____

It's a very good idea to have a list of personal emergency phone numbers, too:

Doctor's name and phone number: _____

Dentist's name and phone number: _____

School phone number: _____

Who to contact in case of emergency: _____

Keep your list of emergency numbers where everyone can find them.
Keep them close to the phone. Keep them where people can see them.
Be sure your children know where they are and when to use them.
Some people keep important phone numbers on the refrigerator.

Where do you keep your emergency phone numbers?



Sinkholes in Pinellas County

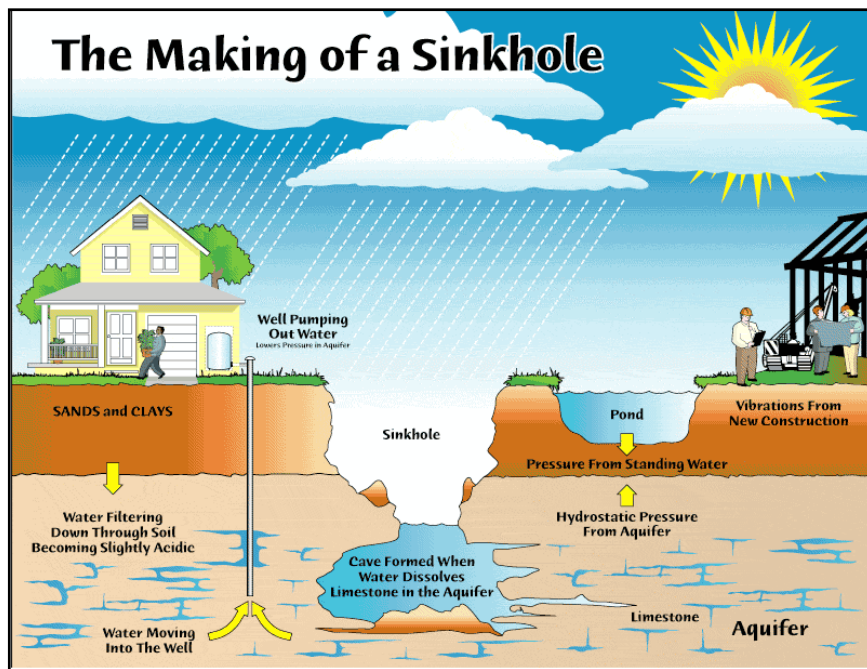


This is a very large sinkhole.
A truck and a car are in the sinkhole.
Sinkholes can appear very quickly.
Sinkholes can be dangerous.

*If you see a new sinkhole, call Public Works Department: (727) 464-3251.
If that office is closed, call the Sheriff: (727) 582-6200.
If the sinkhole can cause serious injury or death, call 911.*

Sinkholes appear when water wears away too much limestone. (Limestone is a very soft rock.) When the limestone collapses, the soil collapses. This poster shows some ways in which water washes away limestone.

This poster (below) and more sinkhole information is on the internet at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/emer/sinkhole/sinkpage.htm>.



You can download a brochure about sinkholes in Pinellas County at this Internet address: www.co.pinellas.fl.us/bcc/PublicWorks/pdf/Coastal/sinkholes.pdf.

Remember: Call 911 if the sinkhole can hurt or kill someone.








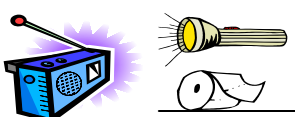

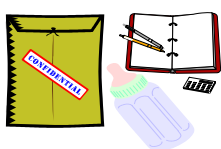
Prepare Now for Disasters: Make a Disaster Supplies Kit

No one knows when a disaster may strike. No one can tell when an earthquake or a tornado may strike. No one can tell when a terrorist attack will come. But you can be prepared.

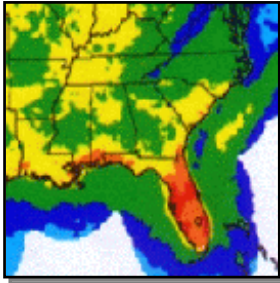


Be sure your home has a disaster supplies kit. If you do not have one, put one together now. Get your family to help you put together the kit.

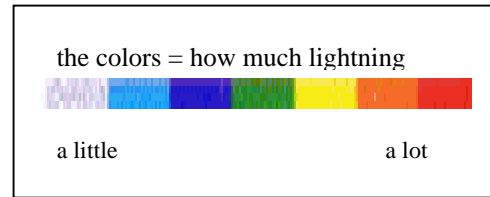
You need 6 basic things in your disaster supplies kit:

<p>1. water</p> 		<p>3 gallons of water for every person, in plastic jugs</p>
<p>2. food</p> 		<p>canned food that is ready-to-eat, nuts, peanut butter, crackers, trail mix</p>
<p>3. first-aid supplies</p>		<p>bandages, soap, scissors, aspirin, sunscreen, safety pins</p>
<p>4. clothes & bedding</p> 		<p>strong shoes, blankets, backpack, sunglasses, hat and gloves</p>
<p>5. tools and supplies</p>		<p>radio, batteries, flashlight, toilet paper, matches, aluminum foil</p>
<p>6. special items</p> 		<p>baby supplies, prescription drugs, important papers, books, pens, glasses</p>

Lightning in Florida



Florida has more lightning than any other state. More people are killed by lightning in Florida than in any other state. *Lightning kills people! Lightning is very dangerous!*



About 95% of Central Florida's lightning happens between May and October. (Pinellas County is in Central Florida.)

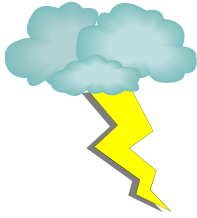
When you hear thunder, go inside. Keep away from windows. Keep your children safe. Remember, lightning kills people.

You can learn many more things about lightning at the *Lightning Information Center*. You can see many pictures and maps and charts about lightning. Go to this internet address: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mlb/litgcenter/litgmain.html>.

Matthew Bragaw is a lightning specialist. He works for the National Weather Service in Melbourne, FL. You can find many of his lightning pictures at the *Lightning Information Center*. Two of his pictures are below.



What to Do in a Thunderstorm



Thunderstorms can be very dangerous.
They can have high winds.
They can have heavy rain and hail.
They can cause flash floods.
The lightning can kill you.

What to do if you are outside:

- ✓ Get inside a house, strong building or a car.
- ✓ Do not stand in open places or on top of a hill.
- ✓ Do not stand under tall trees or telephone poles.
- ✓ Stay away from metal pipes, railroad tracks, metal fences, phone lines.
- ✓ Jump in a ditch or other low area (if it's not full of water).
- ✓ ***Do not lie flat on wet ground.*** Instead, drop to your knees, bend forward and put your hands on your knees.



a strong building

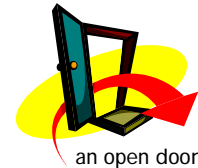


a tall tree

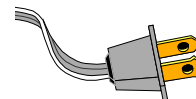
What to do if you are inside:

- ✓ Keep away from windows, open doors and fireplaces.
- ✓ Keep away from radiators, plumbing--anything metal.
- ✓ Unplug TV sets and computers.
- ✓ Do not use the telephone--except in an emergency.

Listen to the radio and follow emergency instructions.



an open door



a plug



a fireplace



a radiator



an open window



a radio

What to Do in a Tornado

Tornadoes are always very dangerous.
They can strike without warning.
They can knock down buildings.
They can throw houses and people into the air.
They can kill you.



How to Prepare for a Tornado

Have a family plan about tornadoes and other emergencies.
Practice what to do. If the weather looks bad, turn on a radio or TV and listen for weather information.

What to Do if there is a Tornado and You Are Outside

- ✓ Run into any strong nearby building--but not a mobile home (house trailer).
- ✓ Do not try to drive away from a tornado in your car.
- ✓ Get out of cars and trucks.
- ✓ *Lie down flat in a ditch or low place.*



What to Do if You Are Inside

- ✓ Have an emergency radio on and listen for warnings and instructions.
- ✓ Stay away from windows and doors.
- ✓ Go to the basement--or an inside room with no windows.
- ✓ Get under something strong, such as a heavy table.
- ✓ Get under a blanket or sleeping bag. *Protect your head.*



a heavy table



He should have the pillow over his head.

He should be under a heavy table.

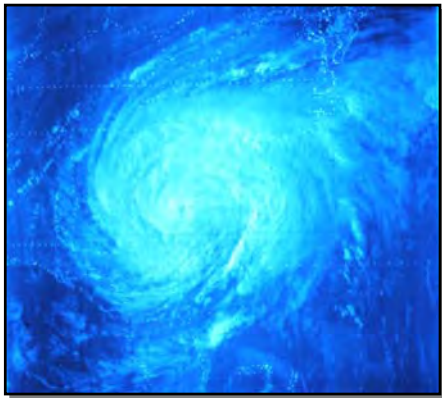
Hurricanes in Florida

Hurricanes are huge, powerful storms. The high winds cause a lot of damage. The lightning and thunder storms cause a lot of damage. The tornadoes cause a lot of damage.

But the floods (storm surges and flash floods) cause the most damage.

Hurricanes are very dangerous.
Hurricanes can kill people.

The hurricane season in Florida is from June 1 to November 30. Always be prepared for hurricanes and other big storms. You can never tell exactly which direction they will go. You can never tell exactly how strong they will be.



Hurricane David near Jacksonville, FL.



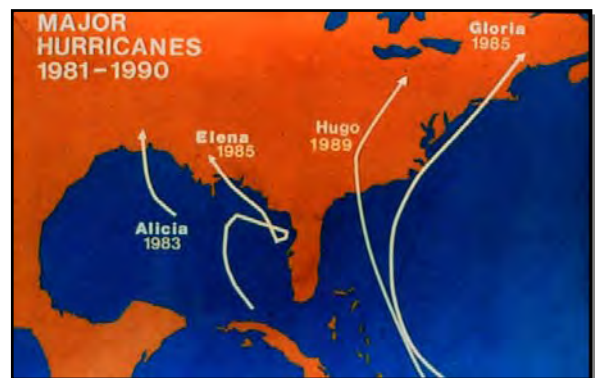
a tornado



Hurricane Andrew did a lot of damage.



Florida faced a lot of big hurricanes in 1941-1950.



Florida faced only a few big hurricanes in 1981-1990

All of the pictures on this page are from the NOAA Photo Library on the internet:

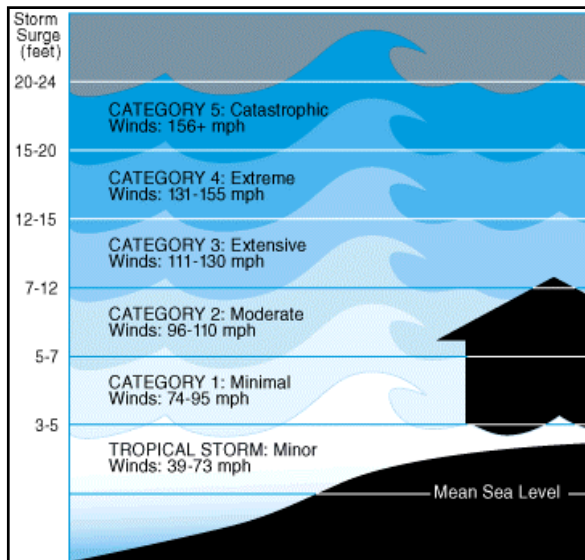
<http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/historic/nws>

There are many good sites about hurricanes on the internet. One of the best is provided by AccuWeather. Go to <http://hurricane.accuweather.com> for lots of maps and photos. Put in your own zip code to get your weather report.

The Florida Department of Health has pamphlets about hurricanes in 3 languages: English, Spanish, and Creole. Go to: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Hurricane/hurricane2005.html>

The *Pinellas County Hurricane Preparedness Handbook* (18 pages) is on the internet at <http://www.co.pinellas.fl.us/bcc/hurrprep.htm>.

The *Handbook* explains the different categories of hurricanes. It also explains what could happen if a Category 5 hurricane hits Pinellas County. Here are two charts from the *Handbook*.



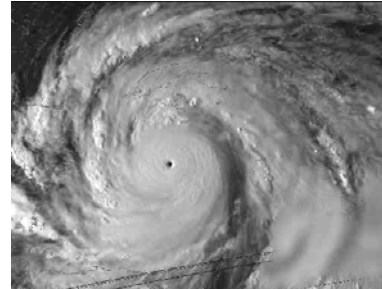
Storm categories depend on how strong the wind is. In a Category 1 storm, the wind is between 74 and 95 miles per hour. In a Category 5 storm, the wind is over 156 miles per hour.



In a Category 5 storm, most of Pinellas County would be under water.

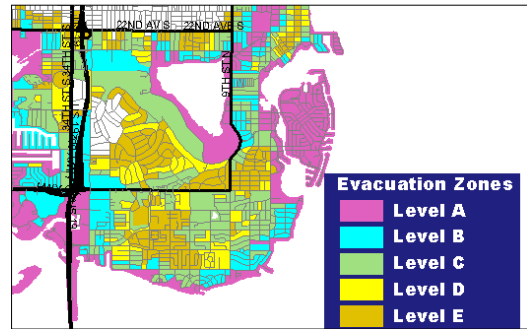
What to Do in a Hurricane

Hurricanes usually hit land near an ocean or a gulf. It takes several days for a hurricane to form, so we usually know when and where a hurricane might come. In the United States, the hurricane season is from June to November.



How to Prepare for a Hurricane

- ✓ Listen to weather reports very carefully and follow all emergency directions.
- ✓ Have an emergency weather radio on during bad weather.
- ✓ Know your evacuation route.
- ✓ Keep plenty of gas in your car or truck.
- ✓ Be sure you have a Disaster Survival Kit in your house. Be sure everyone in the family knows where it is.
- ✓ Board up or put tape on your windows.
- ✓ Do not stay in a mobile home. Go to a safer place, such as a shelter.



an evacuation map—know your zone & escape roads

What to Do During a Hurricane

- ✓ Listen constantly to a radio or TV for emergency instructions.
- ✓ Stay inside, in an inside room without windows, if possible.
- ✓ Have plenty of flashlights and batteries handy.
- ✓ Have your Disaster Survival Kit handy.
- ✓ Protect yourself with pillows, blankets or sleeping bags.

What to Do After a Hurricane

- ✓ Stay tuned to the emergency radio for instructions.
- ✓ Look for injured people and help them—or call for emergency help.
- ✓ Watch out for gas and water leaks or broken power lines.
- ✓ Watch out for snakes and other harmful animals and insects.
- ✓ Do not go back to your home until officials say it is OK.

What to Do in a Flood

Floods are the most common natural disaster. Flash floods can happen without warning. Other floods may take days to develop. Floodwaters can kill you.



How to Prepare for a Flood

Always watch out for floods when there is heavy rain. If the weather is bad, turn on the radio or TV and listen for weather information.

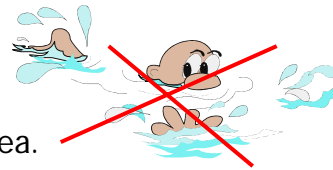
Be sure that you have a Disaster Supply Kit in the house and in the car. Find out what roads are used in case of floods in your area.



Put a disaster supply kit in your car.

What to Do If You are Outside and a Flood Comes

- ✓ Keep away from rivers, streams and dams.
- ✓ Watch out for mudslides, rockslides, and broken power lines.
- ✓ Do not drive into a flooded area.
- ✓ Do not walk or try to swim in a flooded area.
- ✓ Get to higher ground as fast as you can, even if you have to leave your car.
- ✓ Do not go into a building if the floodwaters are over the first floor.



Go to higher ground.

Homeland Security Advisory System

This chart is very important.
It explains the system for keeping Americans as safe as possible.
It explains the danger the US faces from terrorist attacks.

Red means there is extreme danger.

Orange means there is high danger.

Yellow means be careful—caution.

Blue means there may be some danger.

Green means there is almost no danger.

When the danger is high or severe, listen to the radio or watch TV. Listen for information on the news.



Internet Activities

You can also get Homeland Security information from the Internet. Try these sites:

<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/osi/DomesticSecurity/HSAS.htm> (English)

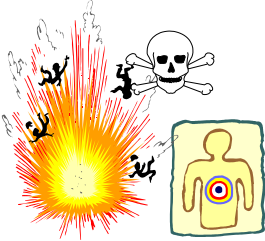
<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/osi/DomesticSecurity/Espanol/index.htm> (Spanish)

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/bpr/EMTOOLS/Severe/terrorism.htm> (English)

<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/unexpected.html> (English & Spanish)

<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/foreignmat/> (lists materials available on disasters and emergencies in these languages: Arabic, Cambodian, Chinese, English, Farsi, French, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese)

What to Do in Case of a Terrorist Attack



A terrorist is someone who does something terrible that hurts people and makes people afraid. It is especially terrible because it comes without warning. It catches people by surprise. It usually kills innocent people.

On September 11, 2001, there was a terrorist attack in New York City and another terrorist attack in Washington, D. C.

There are many types of terrorist attacks. Some recent attacks have included:

- ✓ Crashing airplanes into buildings
- ✓ Setting off bombs
- ✓ Sending anthrax in the mail



How to Prepare for a Terrorist Attack

It is almost impossible to be prepared for a terrorist attack. That's why they are called "terrorist" attacks--they bring terror to everyone. But there are some things everyone can do:

- ✓ Report anything suspicious to the police.
- ✓ Don't open mail that looks suspicious, or that has no return address. Instead, call the police.
- ✓ Be sure you have a Disaster Survival Kit in your house. Be sure everyone in the family knows where it is.
- ✓ Know where to get official information about terrorism or disasters.
- ✓ Read everything carefully that comes from the police or other officials.
- ✓ Have plenty of flashlights and batteries handy.
- ✓ Have your Disaster Survival Kit handy.

What to Do During or After a Terrorist Attack

- ✓ Listen constantly to a radio or TV for emergency instructions.
- ✓ Follow all instructions of all emergency workers—police, firemen, etc
- ✓ If told to stay in your home: shut all windows and doors, turn off fans and air conditioners, keep away from windows and doors, and do not leave your house until officials say it is safe to go out.
- ✓ Look for injured people and help them—or call for emergency help.

Have a Family Emergency Plan: Teach It To Your Children

1. ***Make an emergency communications plan.*** Decide how you will contact each other in case of an emergency. Teach the plan to each family member. Practice the plan. For example, be sure everyone knows everyone's work phone numbers, home phone numbers, and cell phone numbers. What emails will you use in an emergency?
2. ***Choose a meeting place.*** Where will you try to meet if there is an emergency? A friend's house? A church or school building? It must be a place every family member knows. It must be a place every family member can get to quickly.
3. ***Put together a disaster supplies kit.*** Page 29 tells what you need to have in your kit. Teach your children where to find the kit. Teach everyone when to use it and how to use it. If you must leave your house, take the kit with you.
4. ***Find out the school's emergency plan.*** Ask the school for a copy of a parent's what-to-do checklist. Are you supposed to pick up your children? Or will the school bus them to an emergency shelter?
5. ***Find out what emergency plans your apartment complex or nursing home has.*** Ask them for written instructions.



Here is a sample family plan (below). Study it. Then make your own family plan. Give a copy of it to every family member.

The Jones Family Plan

1. Keep all cars filled with gas at all times.
2. Keep some disaster supplies in each car.
3. Keep your pagers and cell phones on during the day. Charge them every night.
4. Mother will pick up Molly at the school.
5. Father will pick up Grandpa.
6. Our first meeting place is Jill's office: 3940 18th Avenue South. If you can't get there, go to the UMCM Literacy Office at 301 37th Avenue North.
7. When it's OK to use the phones, call Uncle Bill in Syracuse: 315-678-9101. Everyone will call him. Then we will know if the whole family is OK.