

Disasters and Emergencies —TOOL TIPS

Know what disasters and hazards could affect your area, how to get [emergency alerts](#), and where you would go if you and your family need to evacuate. Make sure your family has a plan and practices it often. Download the [FEMA App](#) to get preparedness strategies, real-time weather and emergency alerts.



Order Free Preparedness Materials

Order free preparedness materials from [FEMA's online ordering platform](#). These materials can be shipped directly to you at no cost.

Hazard Information Sheets

Use these two-sided information sheets to learn more about how to prepare for, keep safe during, and respond to hazards.

Hazard Information Sheets: [Download the Full Suite](#) or [download individual sheets in English for](#)

[Active Shooter](#), [Avalanche](#), [Cyberattack](#), [Earthquake](#), [Extreme Heat](#), [Financial Emergency](#), [Flood](#), [Hurricane](#), [Landslide](#), [Novel Pandemic](#), [Power Outage](#), [Thunderstorm](#), [Lightning](#), and [Hail Tornado](#), [Tsunami](#), [Volcano](#), [Wildfire](#), [Winter Storm](#).

[Download information sheets in additional languages for](#)

[Shooter](#), [Avalanche](#), [Cyberattack](#), [Earthquake](#), [Extreme Heat](#), [Flood](#), [Hurricane](#), [Landslide](#), [Novel Pandemic](#), [Power Outage](#), [Thunderstorm](#), [Lightning](#), and [Hail Info Sheets](#), [Tornado](#), [Tsunami](#), [Volcano](#), [Wildfire](#), [Winter Storm](#)



Are You Ready? Guide

This comprehensive guide provides detailed information on how best to prepare for disasters within families and communities. Learn general disaster preparedness tips and best practices to inform your planning.

[Are You Ready? Guide](#) in [English](#) or [additional languages](#).



Document and Insure Your Property (PDF)

Disasters are a matter of when, not if. Make sure you're prepared by documenting your property and ensuring that you have the insurance coverage you need.

[Document and Insure Your Property](#) in [English](#) or [Additional Languages](#)

Know Your Alerts and Warnings (PDF)

When disaster strikes, know who to turn to for updates, alerts, and warnings.

This guide outlines the U.S. alert and warning systems and the information you can expect to receive from each source. [Know Your Alerts and Warnings](#)

in [English](#) or [Additional Languages](#)



A Guide for Alerts and Warnings (PDF)

Learn what to do when you get a hazard alert at home or in the car! The Guide for Alerts and Warnings has information about 17 hazards, their alerts, and the protective actions you can take to stay safe. Download [A Guide for Alerts and Warnings](#) or [order a booklet copy](#) with a magnetic strip for the fridge



Safeguard Critical Documents and Valuables (PDF)

Be prepared for any disaster by safeguarding documents and valuables. This guide includes a checklist to help you prepare your documents should you need to file an insurance claim after a disaster. [Safeguard Critical Documents and Valuables](#) in [English](#) or [Additional Languages](#)



Build A Kit: After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own [food](#), [water](#) and other [supplies](#) to last for several days. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. (See Next Page for [FEMA Emergency & Disaster Preparedness List](#))

EMERGENCY & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS LIST

FEMA RECOMMENDED

<input type="checkbox"/> Batteries - for Radios; Cell Phones; Flashlights	<input type="checkbox"/> Moist Towelettes
<input type="checkbox"/> Battery Powered or Hand Crank Radio for Alerts	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-perishable food for several days
<input type="checkbox"/> Can Opener	<input type="checkbox"/> Water - One gallon per person, per day for several days
<input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone Charger & Extra Battery	<input type="checkbox"/> Whistle to use to signal for help
<input type="checkbox"/> Dust Mask, Duck Tape & Plastic Sheeting to Section off Contaminated Areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Wrench or Pliers to turn off utilities
<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit -Bandages, Alcohol, Eye Wash, Tweezers, Antibacterial Cream, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Helmet, Head Protection Gear</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Garbage Bags & Plastic Ties	
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Map	

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER

<input type="checkbox"/> Allergy Medication	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Matches/Lighter	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoes - All Weather
<input type="checkbox"/> Antacids	<input type="checkbox"/> Feminine Products	<input type="checkbox"/> Mess Kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Shovel
<input type="checkbox"/> Anti-diarrheal Meds	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Extinguisher	<input type="checkbox"/> Pain Relievers	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bags
<input type="checkbox"/> Antibacterial Wipes	<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Book	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper Towels	<input type="checkbox"/> Socks - Waterproof
<input type="checkbox"/> Backpack - Waterproof	<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper, Pens & Pencils	<input type="checkbox"/> Tent
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Account Info	<input type="checkbox"/> Gas in Safety Can	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper/Plastic Cups	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste
<input type="checkbox"/> Blankets	<input type="checkbox"/> Glasses/Contacts	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper/Plastic Plates	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrushes
<input type="checkbox"/> Books, Games & Toys	<input type="checkbox"/> Gloves	<input type="checkbox"/> Passwords	<input type="checkbox"/> Towels - Bath
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash - Bills & Coins	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Sanitizer	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet Food, Bowl & Leash	<input type="checkbox"/> Towels - Kitchen
<input type="checkbox"/> Clothes - Extra Set	<input type="checkbox"/> Handsaw	<input type="checkbox"/> Pillows	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Registration
<input type="checkbox"/> Coat - All Weather	<input type="checkbox"/> Infant Formula	<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic Tarp	<input type="checkbox"/> Washcloths
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact Lens Solution	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance Policies	<input type="checkbox"/> Pots & Pans	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Canteen
<input type="checkbox"/> Diaper Rash Cream	<input type="checkbox"/> Knife	<input type="checkbox"/> Portable Burner	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Toilet Paper/Wipes</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Diapers	<input type="checkbox"/> Laptop/iPad	<input type="checkbox"/> Prescription Meds	
<input type="checkbox"/> Disposable Utensils	<input type="checkbox"/> Laxatives	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing Kit	
<input type="checkbox"/> Driver's License	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Preserver/Jackets	<input type="checkbox"/> Soap	

To assemble your kit, store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy to carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

FOR MORE UP TO DATE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE FEMA AT www.ready.gov



FEMA

TORNADO • FLASH FLOOD • EARTHQUAKE • WINTER STORM • HURRICANE • FIRE • HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPILL

To prepare for a storm, create a 72-hour emergency kit with essentials like water, non-perishable food, a first-aid kit, and a radio. Secure your home by checking for leaks, securing loose objects, and knowing your evacuation route. Also, keep important documents safe and have a list of emergency contacts. Here's a more detailed checklist: Emergency Kit (72-hour minimum):

- **Water:** At least one gallon per person per day.
- **Food:** Non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items.
- **Flashlight and extra batteries:** A reliable light source is crucial.
- **First-aid kit:** Bandages, antiseptic, pain relievers, etc.
- **Radio (battery-powered or hand-crank):** To stay informed about weather updates.
- **Whistle:** To signal for help.
- **Dust mask or cotton t-shirt:** To filter the air.
- **Plastic sheeting and duct tape:** For sheltering in place.
- **Personal hygiene items:** Hand sanitizer, toilet paper, etc.
- **Important documents:** Identification, insurance, banking info, Copies of personal documents: Medication list, proof of address, etc.
- **Cash or traveler's checks:** In case ATMs are down.
- **Sleeping bag or warm blanket:** For each person.
- **Medications (7-day supply):** Plus any prescription glasses or hearing aids.
- **Baby supplies:** Formula, diapers, etc., if needed.
- **Pet supplies:** Food, water, collar, ID, if you have pets.

- **Games and activities for children:** To help them cope with stress.
- **Multi-purpose tool:** A helpful tool for various tasks.
- **Home Security:**
 - **Check for leaks and secure loose objects:** Make sure your home is as sturdy as possible.
 - **Secure windows and doors:** Board up windows or use plywood if needed.
 - **Know your evacuation route:** Have a plan for leaving if necessary.
 - **Turn off utilities if necessary:** Water and gas mains, and electricity at the circuit breaker.
 - **Move valuable items to a safe place:** Out of the path of potential flooding or debris.
- **Other Important Considerations:**
 - **Emergency Contacts:** Have a list of emergency contacts, including someone out of town.
 - **Stay informed:** Monitor weather updates and emergency alerts.
 - **Help your neighbors:** Encourage them to prepare and take CPR training.

Note: This checklist is a general guide. You may need to customize it based on your specific needs, location, and the type of storm you are preparing for.

TORNADO WATCH

A Tornado Watch is issued when **a tornado is possible.**

Know your safe place (storm shelter, basement, interior hall away from windows). Be ready to act quickly if a Warning is issued.

Be Prepared.

TORNADO WARNING

A Tornado Warning is issued when **a tornado is happening or about to happen.**

Immediately seek shelter in your safe place!

Take Action!



weather.gov

Tornado Sheltering Guidelines

Seek the best available refuge area **immediately** when a Tornado Warning is issued. Your chance of surviving a tornado is excellent if you follow these guidelines.

WORST OPTIONS

Mobile homes
Vehicles
Underneath a highway overpass

BAD OPTIONS

Large open rooms like gymnasiums
Manufactured housing

GOOD OPTIONS

Interior room of a well-constructed home or building
Basement

BEST OPTIONS

Above or below ground Tornado Storm Shelter (NNSA/ICC 500 compliant)*
Specifically-designed FEMA Safe Room*

Find another option



Stay in place until all clear

PHOTO: U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Bradley C. Church

*Recommended by FEMA



STORM PLANNING TIMELINE

A few days out

If the forecast calls for severe weather in a few days, start preparing now.

- Make sure that you have emergency supplies
- Know your safe places
- Have a family communication plan

The day before

The day before, forecast accuracy continues to improve.

- Adjust plans
- Make sure your phone can receive WEAs
- Ensure your shelter is clean and accessible

The day of

Remain vigilant and aware of any active Watches. A Warning may be issued at a moment's notice!

- Remind your family of the communication plan
- Know how to evacuate and/or get to safety from wherever you are
- When a Warning is issued, you may only have seconds to take action!

weather.gov



Know Where to Go

When Sheltering from a Tornado

If you have no basement, move to an interior room with no windows.

Quickly move to your basement and bring your emergency supply kit.

Top floor rooms DO NOT protect you.

Exterior rooms and rooms with windows DO NOT protect you.

NO PLACE OUTSIDE is safe from a tornado.



weather.gov/safety/tornado

