

Be Ready for Disasters

Every family needs to know what to do if something bad happens. It might be a flood, a hurricane, or some other kind of disaster. It is very important to be ready before a disaster happens.

Talk About Disasters with Your Family

- Children like to know the adults in their lives have a plan in case things go wrong. Talk about the kinds of disasters that can happen where you live.

Make a Communications Plan

- Learn phone numbers to call if your family is not together.
- Make a copy of the phone numbers to call for each person in your family to keep with them. Write down the phone numbers for work, school, childcare and other places where you and your family members spend a lot of time.
- Pick someone out of town to call if you get separated.

Be Prepared to Stay or to Go in an Emergency

- Make a Ready-to-Stay Kit. Put together the things you will need if you have to stay home without power for several days. You should have a good supply of water and food. Choose food that you do not have to keep in a cold place. **Picture 1**
- Make Ready-to-Go Kits for each member of your family. Put together the things you will need if you have to leave quickly.
- Put flashlights and extra batteries in your kits.
- Use strong bags and mark the date you packed your Ready-to-Go Kits.
- Pack extra bottled water. **Picture 2**

Listen to the News

- Listen to the radio or television to find out if you should leave or stay at home.
- If you will need a ride, ask someone ahead of time.

 **One more thing!** If your power goes out, use flashlights. **Picture 3** Do not use candles because they can cause a fire. If you have a portable generator, make sure to run it outside and away from windows. When they are working, portable generators make dangerous carbon monoxide gas, or CO. Too much CO can kill you. Never use a portable generator indoors, on a covered porch, or in a garage.

