

IF A DISASTER STRIKES:

- **Remain calm and patient. Put your plan into action.**
- **Check for injuries.** Give first aid and get help for seriously injured people.
- **Listen to you battery powered radio for news and instructions.** Evacuate, if advised to do so. Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
 - **Check for damage in your home:** Use flashlights – do not light matches or turn on electrical switches, if you suspect damage.
 - Check for fires, fire hazards and other household hazards.
 - Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows and get everyone outside quickly.
 - Shut off any other damaged utilities.
 - Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline and other flammable liquids immediately.

- **Remember to:**
 - Confine or secure your pets.
 - Call your family contact – do not use the telephone again unless it is a life-threatening emergency.
 - Check on your neighbors, especially elderly or disabled persons.
 - Make sure you have an adequate water supply in case service is cut off.
 - Stay away from downed power lines.

For more information, contact:



Grundy County Emergency Management Agency

Grundy County Local Emergency
Planning Committee

815-941-3212

Your Family Disaster Plan

Grundy County
Emergency

Management Agency &
Local Emergency
Planning Committee



EMERGENCY PLAN CONTACT INFORMATION

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere – at work, at school, or in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe?

Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services – gas, water, electricity or telephone – were cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away.

Families can – and do - cope with disaster by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Follow the steps listed in this brochure to create your family's disaster plan. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility.

FILL OUT, COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL FAMILY MEMBERS.

FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

Emergency Meeting Place (Outside your home) _____

Meeting Place (Outside your neighborhood) _____

Phone Number of Meeting Place _____

Address of Meeting Place _____

Family Contact (Name) _____

Contact Phone Number _____

FOUR STEPS TO SAFETY

1. Find Out What Could Happen to You.

- **Contact your local emergency management agency** to find out which disasters are most likely to happen in your community. Find out how to prepare for each.
- **Learn about your community's warning signals:** what they sound like and what you should do when you hear them.
- **Ask about animal care after a disaster.** Animals may not be allowed inside emergency shelters due to health regulations. Find out how to help elderly or disabled persons, if needed.
- **Next, find out about the disaster plans at your workplace,** your children's school or daycare center and other places where your family spends time.

2. Create a Disaster Plan.

- **Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster.** Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather and other disasters to children. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.
- **Pick two meeting places** – a location a safe distance from your home in case of fire, and a place outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.
- **Ask an out-of-state friend to be your "family contact".** After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact's phone number.
- **Discuss what to do in an evacuation.** Plan how to take care of your pets.

3. Complete This Checklist.

- Post emergency telephone numbers by phones (fire, police, ambulance, etc.)
- Take a first aid and CPR class.
- Show responsible family members how and when to turn off gas, water, and electricity at main switches.
- Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Teach each family member how to use fire extinguishers and where they are kept.
- Conduct a home hazard hunt.
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble as Disaster Supply Kit.
- Teach children how and when to call 911 for emergency help.
- Determine the best escape routes from your home.

4. Practice and Maintain Your Plan.

- Quiz your children every six months so they remember what to do.
 - Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills every year.
 - Replace stored food and water every six months.
 - Test and recharge your fire extinguishers according to the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries twice a year.
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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Working with neighbors can save lives and property. Meet with your neighbors to plan how the neighborhood could work together after a disaster until help arrives. If you are a member of a neighborhood organization, such as a home association or crime watch group, introduce disaster preparedness as a new activity. Know your neighbors' skills (technical, medical) and consider how you could help neighbors with special needs (such as elderly or disabled persons). Make plans for child care in case parents cannot get home.

Evacuation

- Listen to your battery-powered radio and follow the instructions of local emergency officials.
 - Take your Disaster Supplies Kit.
 - Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
 - Make arrangements for your pets.
 - Use travel routes specified by local authorities – don't use shortcuts because certain areas may be impassable or dangerous.
 - Lock your home.
 - Shut off water, gas and electric before leaving if instructed to do so.
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Home Hazard Hunt

During a disaster, ordinary objects in your home can cause injury or damage. Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a home hazard. Inspect your home at least once a year and fix potential hazards. Contact your local fire department to learn about home fire hazards.