Hi! I'm Pedro! I'm learning how to prepare for emergencies.

Prepare means “get ready.”

You get ready for things all the time — like when you put on a jacket and grab an umbrella to get ready for a rainy day.

I want to be ready for any emergency, so I’m learning how to help stay safe when emergencies happen.

You can prepare for emergencies, too! Just follow me!
Pedro heard a loud sound at his friend Mia’s house.

“What’s making that BEEP-BEEP-BEEP sound?” he asked.

“It’s the sound a smoke alarm makes,” said Mia. “We just tested ours and practiced our escape plan. Let me show you!”

Important words to know:
BEEP-BEEP-BEEP, SMOKE ALARMS, ESCAPE PLAN, GET LOW AND GO, MEETING PLACE, GET OUT AND STAY OUT
“My mom tests our smoke alarms once a month and we practice our escape plan twice a year!”

“Why?” asked Pedro.

“To BE PREPARED!” said Mia. “SMOKE ALARMS warn us when there’s a fire and practicing our ESCAPE PLAN helps us be sure we can get outside quickly. Let’s practice together!”
“We GET LOW AND GO, especially if we see smoke, so we’re close to the floor, where the air is cleaner.”

“When a smoke alarm goes BEEP-BEEP-BEEP, we need to TAKE ACTION and get outside in less than 2 minutes.”
“Once we get outside, we go to our **MEETING PLACE**, which is a spot a safe distance from the home that everyone knows to meet at,” said Mia, “and most importantly, we **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**, we never go back into a burning home!”

“Thanks, Mia,” said Pedro.

“I'm glad I learned what to do in case of a home fire. Now I know how to help stay safe!”
Wow! Practicing for emergencies is exciting. But it makes me feel nervous, too. So I take big, slow breaths to calm down.

Breathe in slowly through your nose, like me. Then breathe out slowly through your mouth.

After just five or six breaths, I feel better and start to relax. Try it yourself and see!
Dear Grown-ups,

We hope that your child has enjoyed learning how to prepare for an emergency! To learn more, please visit: redcross.org/youthprep and ready.gov/kids.

Pedro’s Safety Checklist

☐ Make a household emergency plan that everyone understands.

☐ Make a household emergency supplies kit and keep it updated.

☐ Start saving for an emergency fund.

Did you know that there are nearly 350,000 home fires each year in the United States? That’s nearly 1,000 each and every day!

☐ Practice your home fire escape plan—be sure you can get outside in 2 minutes!

☐ Test all smoke alarms once a month.