Get a Kit
Keep supplies in an easy-to-carry kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

Sample emergency kit:
Water, food, first-aid supplies, essential medications, flashlight, communication device, personal-hygiene items, cash, extra clothes, blankets, extra batteries, copies of important documents, baby supplies, and pet supplies

You may already have many of these items; consolidate what you currently have into a single container, then add the other items when you are out shopping.

Emergency Kit checklist:
redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies

Get the Red Cross Emergency App or go to redcross.org/apps.

Make a Plan
Set yourself up for success. Have a plan.

- Meet with your family or household members to plan how to prepare and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work, and play.
- Choose two places to meet
  1. Right outside your home (during home fire).
  2. Outside your neighborhood (when required to evacuate).
- Consider any transportation challenges.
- Check your plan and review it with your family and friends.
- Practice using your evacuation routes, getting to your designated meetings places, and calling your out-of-area contact. Practicing at least twice a year will help you react more quickly if an emergency does occur.
- Communications plan: Local phone lines tend to overload after an emergency. Have an out-of-area contact that loved ones all agree to call to check in.

For more information on how to be prepared for and respond to these and other emergencies, visit prepare.org.
Get Connected
More resilient together

Organize your community and networks in-person and on-line. Agree to stay in touch.

Facebook and Twitter
- Add emergency-related accounts to your newsfeed to stay informed. Follow #redcross and your local Red Cross chapter, FEMA, Fire Department.
- Create a Facebook group to stay connected, share supplies, and make a plan.
- Use Safety Check when something happens. Update your status for your family and friends.

Nextdoor
Nextdoor is a private social network to get connected with your neighborhood, with multiple advantages: looking for a babysitter, block parties, or fighting crime. In the case of emergency, you can find and share local information and resources with your neighbors.

National Night Out
National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships. Register for National Night Out to receive notices of upcoming events in your area at natw.org/registration.

Take Action Lean in and learn

Take Classes to Be Red Cross Ready
The Red Cross provides training for the community with a variety of programs and courses to help everyone be ready when an emergency happens. For more information, visit us online at redcross.org/takeaclass.
- **Online courses**: from the comfort of home you can take a variety of courses to prepare your family.
- **On-site training**: a variety of courses in a classroom, at your workplace, or with your community organization. Train-the-trainer programs and do-it-yourself emergency preparedness courses are also available.
- **First aid and CPR courses**: community classes or Red Cross training on demand at your workplace.

Get even more involved
Join all the great Red Cross volunteers who love being there for their community in a time of need to provide food, shelter, care and comfort. The Red Cross is a volunteer organization that depends on each and every one of us and our unique expertise, various backgrounds, talents, and skills. It takes all of us to create a community resilient to emergencies. Here are just a few examples of skills that are always in need:
- **Disaster volunteer**
- **Blood drive volunteer**
- **Youth volunteers**
- **Health and safety volunteer teacher**
- **Armed forces volunteer**

Become an American Red Cross volunteer at redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer

Download the Red Cross Emergency App or, go to redcross.org and search emergency app.

This app provides expert advice on how to prepare and respond to disasters and includes a map with open Red Cross shelters.

Let Your Family Know You're Safe
Tell your loved ones about the American Red Cross Safe and Well Website or access through redcross.org by searching safe and well. This internet-based tool should be integrated into your emergency communications plan. People within a disaster-affected area can register themselves as “safe and well” and concerned family and friends who know the person’s phone number or address can search for messages posted by those who self-register. If you don’t have internet access, call 1-800-RED CROSS to register yourself and your family.