

# Emergency Response Hints from the Red Cross

## Home Hazard Hunt

In a disaster, ordinary items in the home can cause injury and damage. Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a potential hazard.

- ☐ Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections.
- ☐ Fasten shelves securely and brace overhead light fixtures.
- ☐ Place large, heavy objects on lower shelves.
- ☐ Hang pictures and mirrors away from beds.
- ☐ Strap water heater to wall studs.
- ☐ Repair cracks in ceilings or foundations.
- ☐ Store weed killers, pesticides and flammable products away from heat sources.
- ☐ Place oily polishing rags or waste in covered metal cans.
- ☐ Clean and repair chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors and gas vents.

## If You Need to Evacuate

- ☐ Listen to a battery powered radio for the location of emergency shelters. Follow instructions of local officials.

- ☐ Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
- ☐ Take your Disaster Supplies Kit.
- ☐ Lock your house.
- ☐ Use travel routes specified by local officials.

If you are sure you have time ...

- ☐ Shut off water, gas and electricity, if instructed to do so.
- ☐ Let others know when you left and where you are going.
- ☐ Make arrangements for pets. Animals may not be allowed in public shelters.

## Prepare an Emergency Car Kit Include:

- ☐ Battery powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ Blanket
- ☐ Booster cables
- ☐ Fire extinguisher (5 lb., A-B-C type)
- ☐ First aid kit and manual
- ☐ Bottled water and non-perishable high energy foods such as granola bars, raisins and peanut butter

- ☐ Maps, Shovel, Flares
- ☐ Tire repair kit and pump

## Fire Safety

- ☐ Plan two escape routes out of each room.
- ☐ Practice fire drills at least twice a year.
- ☐ Teach family members to stay low to the ground when escaping from a fire.
- ☐ Teach family members never to open doors that are hot. In a fire, feel the bottom of the door with the palm of your hand. If it is hot, do not open the door. Find another way out.
- ☐ Install smoke detectors on every level of your home. Clean and test them at least once a month. Change batteries at least once a year.
- ☐ Keep a whistle in each bedroom to awaken household in case of fire.
- ☐ Check electrical outlets. Do not overload outlets.
- ☐ Purchase and learn how to use a fire extinguisher (5 lb., A-B-C type).
- ☐ Have a collapsible ladder on each upper floor of your house.
- ☐ Consider installing home sprinklers.

## Emergency Checklist

### Call Your Emergency Management Office or American Red Cross Chapter

- ☐ Find out which disasters could occur in your area.
- ☐ Ask how to prepare for each disaster.
- ☐ Ask how you would be warned of an emergency.
- ☐ Learn your community's evacuation routes.
- ☐ Ask about special assistance for elderly or disabled persons.

Also...

- ☐ Ask your workplace about emergency plans.
- ☐ Learn about emergency plans for your children's school or day care center.

### Create an Emergency Plan

- ☐ Meet with household members to discuss the dangers of fire, severe weather, earthquakes and other emergencies. Explain how to respond to each.
- ☐ Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

- ☐ Discuss what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- ☐ Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two escape routes from each room.
- ☐ Show family members how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at main switches when necessary.
- ☐ Post emergency telephone numbers near telephones.
- ☐ Teach children how and when to call 911, police and fire.
- ☐ Instruct household members to turn on the radio for emergency information.
- ☐ Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative for family members to call if separated during a disaster (it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area).
- ☐ Teach children your out-of-state contact's phone numbers.
- ☐ Pick two emergency meeting places.
  - 1) A place near your home in case of a fire.
  - 2) A place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after a disaster.
- ☐ Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- ☐ Keep family records in a water and fire-proof container.

### Prepare a Disaster Supplies Kit

Assemble supplies you might need in an evacuation. Store them in an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or duffle bag.

Include:

- ☐ A supply of water (one gallon per person per day). Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date and replace every six months.
- ☐ A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food and a non-electric can opener.
- ☐ A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- ☐ Blankets or sleeping bags.
- ☐ A first aid kit and prescription medications.
- ☐ An extra pair of glasses.
- ☐ A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- ☐ Credit cards and cash.
- ☐ An extra set of car keys.
- ☐ A list of family physicians.
- ☐ A list of important family information; the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers.
- ☐ Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.