

Identify Hazards

The first step in creating a disaster plan is to identify what types of disasters could happen to you. Your local fire and police departments, Emergency Management Agency, public health agency or disaster relief organization are good sources of information in assessing community risks.

Questions to ask

- ◆ What types of disasters are most likely to happen in your home or community?
- ◆ What are your best sources of information to alert you to a disaster?
- ◆ What are the community warning signals and what do they mean?
- ◆ What plans are in place at your workplace, school and daycare?
- ◆ Is there a need for special planning to accommodate an elderly or disabled person?
- ◆ What options are available for animal care after a crisis?

prepare your disaster plan

<u>Natural</u>	<u>Accidental</u>	<u>Intentional</u>
Tornado	Fire	Bombing
Flood	Transportation	Biological
Blizzard	Chemical Release	Chemical
Heat Wave		Shooting
Earthquake		
Hurricane		
Mudslide		

Some possible types of disasters

Create Plan

Involving the whole family in developing your plan is essential. Explain the dangers and the necessity for a plan. Use the same agencies in the “Identify Hazards” section to develop specific responses. Commit your plan to paper and educate each member of the family on how and when it is used.

Points to remember

- ◆ Develop a response to each hazard identified in the “Identify Hazards” section
- ◆ Develop a list of emergency numbers, including someone out-of-town that you can contact following a disaster
- ◆ Teach children when and how to use these numbers
- ◆ Establish a meeting place immediately outside your home, as well as an out-of-area destination in case you cannot return home immediately
- ◆ Assemble a disaster supplies kit
- ◆ Conduct a “home-hazard hunt”
- ◆ Learn when and how to shut off water, gas and electricity
- ◆ Install smoke detectors on each level of your home
- ◆ Know two ways out of every room
- ◆ Incorporate any special needs for the elderly or disabled
- ◆ Plan how to care for pets following a disaster

prepare your disaster plan

Disaster Supplies Kit	Nonperishable food	Clothing & Bedding	Tools
prepare a three day supply	Canned meats, fruits, vegetables, soups, juices, milk; peanut butter, crackers, granola bars, trail mix	One change of clothing and footwear per person; blankets or sleeping bags	Flashlight & radio with extra batteries, NOAA weather radio, hand can opener, ABC type fire extinguisher, wrench, signal flare, duct tape
Water for three days	First Aid Kit	Sanitation Items	Special Items
One gallon per person per day	Include prescription medication	Personal hygiene items, plastic garbage bags and ties, bucket w/lid, disinfectant, bleach	Baby needs, extra eyeglasses, cash or travellers checks, books & games

Practice Plan

Even the best plan is useless unless it has been practiced and maintained. Routinely review, practice and update your plans.

Schedule

- ◆ **Monthly**
 - ◆ Check smoke detectors
- ◆ **Every Six Months**
 - ◆ Review and practice disaster plan with family
 - ◆ Conduct fire drills
 - ◆ Replace batteries, clean smoke detectors
 - ◆ Replace food and water in supply kit
- ◆ **Annually**
 - ◆ Check if fire extinguisher is fully charged
 - ◆ Conduct a home hazards hunt

The Home-Hazard Hunt

A home hazard is anything that can create or intensify a disaster.

- ◆ Maintain working smoke detectors
- ◆ Secure propane gas tanks
- ◆ Keep heavy or breakable items low
- ◆ Keep exit routes clear
- ◆ Avoid excess clutter/trash in and near house
- ◆ Secure mobile home foundation
- ◆ Secure hanging items
- ◆ Safely store poisonous or hazardous items
- ◆ Ensure utility connections are in good shape
- ◆ Check for fire hazards

prepare your disaster plan

During Disaster

The key to surviving a disaster is to calmly, yet quickly execute the specific plan for the disaster you are experiencing.

If disaster strikes

- ◆ Remain calm and patient
- ◆ Put your disaster plan into action
- ◆ Provide assistance to those with special needs, in accordance with your plan
- ◆ Check for injuries
- ◆ Listen to local news for information and instruction

Quick Reference: for some potential Ohio hazards

Fire

- ◆ Only fight small fires not in danger of blocking exit
- ◆ Use back of hand to check if doors are hot
- ◆ Crawl under smoke
- ◆ If trapped, close door, hang a sheet from the window
- ◆ Meet at your designated spot
- ◆ Never re-enter a burning building
- ◆ Call 911 from a neighbor's house

Tornado

- ◆ Take immediate shelter if a warning is issued
- ◆ Go to basement or internal hallway
- ◆ Avoid windows, glass or potential flying objects
- ◆ Leave windows closed
- ◆ Hang onto a heavy object with one hand
- ◆ Use the other hand to protect face and neck

Flood

- ◆ During a WATCH, prepare to evacuate
- ◆ During a WARNING, evacuate immediately using primary or alternate evacuation route
- ◆ Fill bathtub with water in case of contamination
- ◆ Avoid flood waters and areas prone to flooding
- ◆ Shut off LP tanks at source

Chemical Release/ Biological Event

- ◆ Listen to news for instructions: FOLLOW THEM
- ◆ Prepare to evacuate and/or use disaster supply kit
- ◆ Stay away from victims until threat is identified
- ◆ Stay upwind, take shallow breaths through a towel
- ◆ Avoid possible contaminated food, water and areas

executing your disaster plan

After the Disaster

The emotions following a disaster can be devastating. It is crucial to the safety of your family to remain calm, listen for and then follow official instructions.

After

- ◆ Follow plan for specific disaster
- ◆ Listen to news reports for information and instruction
- ◆ Assess condition of house, using a flashlight, not an open flame
- ◆ Smell for gas leaks, starting with water heater
- ◆ Shut off any damaged utilities
- ◆ Clean up any hazardous or flammable spills
- ◆ Treat injuries
- ◆ Notify local and out-of-town contacts, then only use phone to report life-threatening emergencies
- ◆ Document damage for insurance claims

“Shelter in Place”

In some emergencies, particularly with chemical, biological or terrorist incidents, local officials may advise you to “shelter in place.” If this is the case, gather your family and supply kit inside. Use a towel or damp cloth to provide some breathing protection. Close all windows and doors and fireproof dampers. Shut off all fans and heating and air conditioning systems. Unless otherwise directed, move to an interior room above ground level and seal any window and door cracks and vents with duct tape. Wait for instructions from authorities.



414022 2/03

State of Ohio Security Task Force

Bob Taft, Governor

Kenneth L. Morchel, Director
Ohio Department of Public Safety
Chair, State of Ohio Security Task Force

State of Ohio Family Disaster Preparedness Guide

Fire
Flood
Tornado
Terrorism

Disasters--natural and man-made--pose a potential threat to our communities and our families. How you prepare for and respond to these disasters directly affects you and your family's chance for survival. This guide provides an overview on what you can do to protect your family from potential disasters.

Remember
Preparation = Survival

Execute	Prepare	Identify Hazards
		Create Plan
		Practice Plan
		During Disaster
		After the Disaster

Emergency Numbers

Fire: _____
Police: _____
Hospital: _____
Poison: 1-800-222-1222
or: _____

Family Contact

Local: _____
Non-Local: _____
Meeting Place (location)
Outside House: _____
Outside Neighborhood: _____