

# CREATE A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN!

To prepare your family for a disaster situation, follow five steps.

## STEP ONE: GATHER INFORMATION

Contact your local emergency management or civil defense office and your local American Red Cross Chapter for the following information:

- What disasters are most likely in your community?
- How would you be warned?
- How should you prepare for each?

## STEP TWO: SHARE INFORMATION WITH YOUR FAMILY

Meet with all in your household to share information in these areas:

- Discuss the types of disasters that could occur.
- Explain how to prepare and respond.
- Discuss what to do if advised to evacuate.
- Practice what you have discussed.

## STEP THREE: PLAN HOW YOUR FAMILY WILL STAY IN CONTACT IF SEPARATED BY DISASTER

In a disaster, normal communications may not be possible. To contact your loved ones, you should choose a meeting place:

- A safe distance from your home in case of fire.
- Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
- An out-of-state friend as a check-in contact for everyone to call. Sometimes it is easier to make long-distance calls than to make local calls in a disaster situation.

## STEP FOUR: PREPARE YOUR FAMILY AND HOME

- Post emergency telephone numbers by every phone.
- Show responsible family members how and when to shut off water, gas and electricity at main switches.
- Install a smoke detector on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms; test monthly and change the batteries twice each year.
- Contact your local fire department to learn about home fire hazards.
- Learn first aid and CPR. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter for information and training.

## STEP FIVE: MEET WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Plan how the neighborhood could work together after a disaster.

- Know your neighbors' skills.
- Determine how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as elderly or disabled persons.
- Make plans for childcare in case parents cannot get home.

