



Make a Plan. Make a Difference.

Household Plan

One of the most important steps you can take in preparing for emergencies is to develop a household disaster plan.

Simple Steps to Get Your Household READY

1 Step One: Types of Hazards

Learn about the natural disasters that could occur in your community from your local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter. Make notes here.

Learn whether hazardous materials are produced, stored or transported near your area. Make notes here.

Learn about possible consequences of deliberate acts of terror. Ask how to prepare for each potential emergency and how to respond. Make notes here.

2 Step Two: Business and School Emergency Response Plans

Talk with employers and school officials about their emergency response plans.

3 Step Three: Have a Household Meeting

Talk with your household about potential emergencies and how to respond to each. Talk about what you would need to do in an evacuation. Details of evacuation plan:

4 Step Four: Complete a “Family Communications Plan”

- Download a copy of the “Family Communications Plan” from [readycolorado.com](https://www.readycolorado.com). Plan how your household would stay in contact if you were separated. Identify two meeting places: the first should be near your home—in case of fire, perhaps a tree or a telephone pole; the second should be away from your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.
- Make sure to pick a friend or relative who lives out of the area for household members to call to say they are okay.

5 Step Five: Training!

- Download a copy of “My READY Profile” from [readycolorado.com](https://www.readycolorado.com). Post emergency telephone numbers by telephones. Teach children how and when to call 911.
- Make sure everyone in your household knows how and when to shut off water, gas, and electricity at the main switches. Consult with your local utilities if you have questions.

6 Step Six: Take a Class

- Take a first aid and CPR class. Local American Red Cross chapters can provide information. Official certification by the American Red Cross provides “good Samaritan” law protection for those giving first aid. Visit [readycolorado.com](https://www.readycolorado.com), “Make A Difference” for information on different volunteer opportunities.
- Reduce the economic impact of disaster on your property and your household’s health and financial well-being.

7 Step Seven: Review & Copy Important Documents

- Review property insurance policies before disaster strikes—make sure policies are current and be certain they meet your needs (type of coverage, amount of coverage, and hazard covered—flood, earthquake)
- Protect your household’s financial well-being before a disaster strikes—review life insurance policies and consider saving money in an “emergency” savings account that could be used in any crisis. It is advisable to keep a small amount of cash or traveler’s checks at home in a safe place where you can quickly gain access to it in case of an evacuation.
- Be certain that health insurance policies are current and meet the needs of your household.
- Make copies of important documents (bank account numbers, policy numbers, etc.) and keep them in a fire-safe box, secure a set in a location other than home, and send them to an out of town relative.

8 Step Eight: Discuss Special Household Needs

- Download a copy of the “Special Needs” worksheet from [readycolorado.com](https://www.readycolorado.com). Consider ways to help neighbors who may need special assistance, such as the elderly or the disabled.
- Make arrangements for pets. Pets are not allowed in public shelters. Service animals for those who depend on them are allowed.