

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

Flood Preparedness

- Determine your flood risk level (check FEMA flood maps)
- Purchase flood insurance if in a moderate to high-risk zone
- Identify evacuation routes to higher ground
- Prepare waterproof container for important documents
- Install check valves in plumbing to prevent backups
- Know how to shut off utilities (gas, water, electricity)
- Keep emergency supplies on upper floors if in flood zone
- Never drive through flooded roads ("Turn Around, Don't Drown")

Hurricane Preparedness

- Create a family evacuation plan and meeting point
- Prepare a 7-day emergency kit with food, water, medications
- Get a battery-powered NOAA weather radio
- Store flashlights and extra batteries
- Secure outdoor furniture and loose objects
- Obtain materials to board up windows (measured in advance)
- Trim trees and remove damaged branches near structures
- Keep car fueled and ready for evacuation
- Have cash on hand in case of power outages
- Fill bathtubs and containers with water before storm hits



Tornado Preparedness

- Identify your safe room (basement or interior ground-floor room)
- Conduct family tornado drills regularly
- Set up weather alerts on your phone
- Keep protective head coverings in your safe room
- Store a whistle or air horn to signal for help if trapped
- Keep shoes by your bed during tornado season
- Learn to recognize tornado danger signs
- Store heavy blankets in safe room to protect from debris
- Know the difference between watches (possible) and warnings (imminent)

Wildfire Preparedness

- Create defensible space (30+ ft) around your home
- Remove dead vegetation within 100 feet of structures
- Clean gutters and roof of debris regularly
- Use fire-resistant building materials when possible
- Pack a "go-bag" with essentials ready to grab
- Develop an evacuation plan with multiple routes
- Sign up for emergency alerts in your area
- Keep garden hoses connected and ready
- Store important documents in fire-resistant safe or digitally
- Keep an N95 mask for each family member for smoke protection



Earthquake Preparedness

- Secure tall furniture to walls with straps or brackets
- Strap water heater to wall studs
- Move heavy items to lower shelves
- Practice "Drop, Cover, Hold On" drills with family
- Know how to shut off gas, water, and electricity
- Keep sturdy shoes and flashlight by every bed
- Install latches on cabinets to prevent contents from spilling
- Identify safe spots in each room (under table, away from windows)
- Keep emergency kit in accessible location
- Have a family communication plan for when separated

Winter Storm Preparedness

- Insulate water pipes and know how to prevent freezing
- Have alternative heating source and fuel
- Stock extra blankets, warm clothing, and sleeping bags
- Keep snow removal equipment accessible
- Prepare car emergency kit (blanket, food, water, sand/kitty litter)
- Store extra food that doesn't require cooking
- Have battery-powered lighting options
- Insulate your home properly (weather stripping, plastic on windows)
- Know location of nearby warming centers
- Keep cell phones fully charged ahead of storms



Extreme Heat Preparedness

- Ensure air conditioning works properly or have alternative cooling
- Identify nearby cooling centers and their hours
- Install window reflectors to reflect heat back outside
- Stock up on rehydration drinks and water
- Acquire battery-powered fans for power outages
- Learn to recognize signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke
- Create a buddy system to check on vulnerable neighbors
- Plan outdoor activities for coolest parts of the day
- Keep lightweight, light-colored clothing on hand
- Close blinds/curtains during day to keep heat out

Drought Preparedness

- Install water-efficient fixtures in your home
- Fix all water leaks promptly
- Store emergency water (1 gallon per person per day for 2 weeks)
- Collect and use rainwater where legal
- Learn water conservation techniques for daily use
- Plant drought-tolerant landscaping (xeriscaping)
- Reduce lawn size in favor of less water-intensive options
- Install rain barrels under downspouts
- Use mulch around plants to retain moisture
- Know your community water restrictions during drought conditions

Remember to review and update your preparations seasonally. While we can't prevent natural disasters, we can be ready for them. Start with the hazards most common in your area, then expand your preparedness over time.