



How to Prepare for Emergencies

Summer is finally here, and so is all the fun that comes with the season. But summer also brings an increased chance of natural disasters and emergencies. While it's never fun to think about the worst case scenario, if we've learned anything from 2020 it's that it's good to be prepared. To this end, I'm sharing a few ideas that will help you and your family feel prepared.

Before you start preparing your family for emergencies, make sure your home is ready for an emergency by checking its emergency systems:

- Check your fire extinguisher's expiration date and replace if needed.
- Check all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Replace detectors or batteries if needed.
- Get wireless flood detectors to put wherever you're likely to see a flood.
- Get a fireproof safe to store important documents like birth certificates and titles.

After your home is ready, create an emergency preparedness kit for each person in your family. A great way to do this is to fill a backpack for each family member with the following items: water and food for 72 hours, a change of clothes, medications, an emergency blanket, a small first aid kit, and a flashlight with extra batteries.

You should also create a kit for your pets with pet food, water, and any medications they need. By creating a kit for each member of your family, everyone can just grab their backpack and go while being self-sufficient.

Then create an emergency plan that goes over where you should meet and who you should contact so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency. You may want to share your emergency plans with neighbors, especially if they're some of your contacts. And by sharing your plans, you can spark emergency preparedness in your community.

Checking your home's systems, getting an emergency kit, and creating an emergency plan will give you peace of mind. And if you need any pointers on how to make sure your home is prepared for emergencies, just give me a call!



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