

# Be Ready Anytime, Anywhere

If a disaster strikes, will you and your family know what to do? After a disaster you and your family should be prepared to care for yourself for three to five days. Emergency first responders may be very busy and may not be able to provide immediate care to all who need it. Getting your family ready for anytime, anywhere is easy, just follow these simple steps:

## Before disaster strikes:

- Choose a place for your family to meet after a disaster.
- Choose a person outside the immediate area for family members to contact in case you get separated. This person should live far enough away so they are not involved in the same emergency.
- Assemble a disaster kit that allows you the ability to be self-sustaining for 3-5 days (See page 45 & 46.)
- Know where a safe place is in your home. This can be used for hurricanes, tornadoes, or to shelter in place in case of a chemical release.
- Know how to contact your children at their school or day care, and how to pick them up after a disaster. Keep your child's emergency information up to date.
- Prepare a plan and discuss with your family how you should react to all hazards that may affect you. Make sure everyone knows what to do.
- Learn your community's public warning signals, what they sound like, where they come from and what you should do when you hear them.
- Learn first aid and CPR. Have a first aid kit, a first aid manual and extra medicine for family members.
- Learn how to shut off your water, gas and electricity properly. Know where to find shut-off valves and switches.
- Have a small amount of cash available. If the power is out, ATM machines won't work.
- Make copies of your vital records and store them in a safe location. Keep photos and videotapes of your home and valuables.
- Make sure family members know all the possible ways to get out of your home. Keep all exits clear.
- Make sure your plans include taking care of your pets.
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio.



*Don't forget to check your disaster kits each year for expired food, drinks or medications and for items that may have been recalled for safety reasons.*

## During an emergency or disaster:

- Keep calm and take time to think. Give assistance where needed and when it is safe to do so.
- Listen to your radio or television for official information and instructions.
- Use the telephone for emergency calls only.
- If you are ordered to evacuate, take your emergency kit and follow official directions to a safe place or temporary shelter.
- If you are ordered to shelter in place, do so immediately and do not go outside until you are told it is safe.

## After the emergency or disaster is over:

- Only return home after authorities have deemed it safe to do so.
- Use caution when entering damaged buildings and homes.
- Stay away from damaged electrical wires and wet appliances.
- Listen to your radio or television for current information.
- Check on family members, notify others you are safe and assist others if possible.
- Check food and water supplies for contamination.
- If government disaster assistance is available, the news media will announce where, when and how to apply.

