

Having a household disaster plan can make a big difference following a disaster. It can mean the difference between being comfortable and confident or miserable and anxious. The most prepared people are able to make sure their basic needs are met, communicate with their friends and family, and assist their friends and neighbors through a rough situation. Here are some basics for making your emergency plan.

- Make a plan with your loved ones on how you can reunite if you can't reach one another by phone. You can identify a couple places to meet up: one near your home and another farther away in case your area needs to be evacuated.
- Know your routes; identify more than one safe evacuation route away from your home. Evacuations can be stressful. Knowing a route ahead of time can speed your evacuation.
- Make an out-of-area friend or family member a part of your communications plan. Sometimes following an emergency, local phone lines get overwhelmed while lines leading out of the area are open.
- Think about backups for your contact information. Think about how you'll contact people when your phone battery is dead and you don't know anyone's phone number.

You can find more information on making a household disaster plan at the [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) link on the Emergency Management tab.