

Are You Ready for An Emergency?

Florida is a great place to live, work and play. But with this beautiful place comes a personal responsibility to be prepared for the hazards that affect this state.

In Florida, natural hazards such as thunderstorms, hurricanes and wildfires are common and preparing for these severe weather events or an emergency is essential.

Preparedness plans are unique: they come in all forms since every family or individual has different needs or circumstances that would alter the way they would need to react in the event of an emergency.

The list of things that you should do to get prepared may seem overwhelming at first. Just take things one step at a time. It is not necessary to spend a lot of money to prepare. Most of the items that you need are most likely already in your home, but needs to be together in an easily accessible location.

More preparedness information can be found at
www.floridadisaster.org/DEMpublic.asp

Do you know the basic safety rules?

Would your children know what to do if they were home alone?

Do you or a family member have special needs?

How well you are prepared can make a difference in whether an event is a personal disaster for you or just an inconvenience.

Be Aware

Be Prepared

Get Ready Now!

**Make a Family Plan at
www.FloridaDisaster.org**



Your Emergency Supply Kit Checklist



**GET
READY
NOW!**

Emergency Supply Kit

Could you gather everything you need and leave your home in less than 15 minutes if you had to evacuate? In an emergency, you need to be ready to make it on your own. What should YOU have in your disaster supply kit?

Plan for 2 kits: 1 large one with enough provisions for 3 days and 1 small kit to take if you must evacuate.

- ◆ 1 gallon of water for each person per day. You should have enough water for at least 3 days. (Example: If you have 4 people in your family, 1 gallon *4 people*3 days = 12 gallons of water. Remember to store extra water for washing and cooking purposes.
- ◆ Canned and dried food—food that is easy to prepare and doesn't need refrigeration.
- ◆ Manual can opener
- ◆ Sleeping bags or air mattresses
- ◆ Flashlight or lantern with batteries
- ◆ First-Aid kit
- ◆ Bathroom supplies
- ◆ Medicines
- ◆ Soap and hand sanitizer
- ◆ NOAA Alert Radio or battery powered radio
- ◆ Games
- ◆ Credit cards and cash
- ◆ Important papers
- ◆ Duct tape
- ◆ Heavy garbage bags or tarps
- ◆ Waterproof container
- ◆ Fire extinguisher
- ◆ Whistle or airhorn
- ◆ Tools

- ◆ Special needs:
 - infant supplies
 - extra eyeglasses
 - hearing aid batteries
 - special equipment for the physically challenged
 - serial number for devices such as pacemakers and oxygen tanks
 - diabetic supplies
 - extra breathing supplies
 - pet supplies

Caring for Pets During Disasters

Millions of Floridians have pets in their home. Owners of dogs, cats, birds, fish, reptiles, and other animals should develop a disaster plan for their pets. After all, emergencies do not only affect people, they affect our animal friends, too! Below are some guidelines to help Floridians prepare their pets for emergencies.

If you evacuate, never leave your pets behind. A lot of times, people leave their pets at home when they evacuate for a disaster. This is not a good idea! Pets can get hurt and lost during disasters. Owners should either take their pets with them or place them in a secure kennel.

Have supplies and medical records for your pet. Animals need food and water just like people do. Be sure to have pet food, bottled water, food dishes, and any medicines that your pet needs in your supply kit. Also, have all veterinary records for your animal on hand.

Check emergency shelters, hotels, and motels for pet policies. Some shelters, hotels, and motels do not allow owners to keep pets in their facilities. Be sure to locate several pet-friendly places along your evacuation route. If you seek emergency shelter, place your pets in a secure kennel or go to a pet-friendly shelter.

Make A Plan

Think ahead and have a plan:

Take all possibilities into account when creating your plan. All households should have emergency supplies ready to sustain themselves for at least 3 days. Talk about the plan with your family. Plan how you will get together in different situations, discuss what to do if you must evacuate and learn how to turn off gas, electric, water and heater systems at main breaker switches.

Have a contact list. If phones are down, pick 2 meeting places:

1. Near your home
2. Somewhere outside the neighborhood

Make sure children know what to do if home alone. Learn First-Aid and CPR and discuss basic safety rules. Also, plan for elderly or disabled family members and plan for pets or other agricultural animals.

Be Informed

Learn about the different threats in your area (severe weather, flooding, storm surge, fire, power failures, hazardous materials, nuclear power plants, etc.). Stay calm, have plans ready and listen for instructions. Watch TV or listen to the radio for information. If you have questions, call your county emergency management or public safety office.

