



PREPARE FOR SPECIFIC DISASTERS - I

Disaster Series: What To Do to Prepare for Disasters
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Fire Preparation



Install smoke detectors throughout your home. Clean them once a month and change the batteries when applicable.



Plan two escape routes out of each room, if possible. Contact your local fire department for help in planning for the safe escape of those with disabilities.



Make sure that windows are not nailed or painted shut. Ensure that any security grating on windows has a fire safety opening feature.



Pick a meeting place outside of your home in the event of a fire.



Store any flammable and combustible liquids in approved containers. Keep containers in the garage or an outside storage area.



Inspect electrical appliances and extension cords for bare wires, worn plugs, and loose connections annually*.



Clean and inspect heating equipment annually.



Learn how to turn off the gas and electricity in an emergency.

*www.hudexchange.info/programs/housing-counseling/housing-counseling-disaster-recovery-toolkit

During the event:



Never open doors that are warm upon touch.



Exit your home immediately using your identified escape routes and call 911.



Learn more steps for what to do when a fire starts, including how to safely extinguish a fire, using these tips from the Red Cross**.

**www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire/if-a-fire-starts

Flood Preparation



Determine whether you live in a flood-prone area. Be aware of streams, drainage channels, and areas known to flood suddenly.



Ask your local emergency manager about official flood warning signals in your community.



Consider purchasing flood insurance. If you are located in a designated flood zone, learn about FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program***;



Take steps to flood-proof your home.

***www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program



Keep all insurance policies and your household inventory in a safe place.

During the event:

- Listen to radio or television stations for flood updates. If local authorities issue a flood watch, prepare to evacuate.
- Secure your home. If time permits, secure items located outside the home.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches, if instructed.
- Make sure your car has a full tank of gas before rainfall begins.
- Fill a sterilized bathtub with water in case your source of water is compromised.
- Stay away from flood waters****.

****www.hudexchange.info/programs/housing-counseling/housing-counseling-disaster-recovery-toolkit

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