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RESEARCH YOUR LOCAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

Disaster Series: What To Do to Prepare for Disasters
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Available in English & Spanish
UF/IFAS Miami-Dade
County Extension Resources

Fact Sheet
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The first step in preparing for a disaster is learning about the risks in your region and researching your community's existing response system. In addition, learn the difference between an advisory, a watch, and a warning. According to the National Weather Service Forecast Office:



An advisory is issued when a hazardous weather event is occurring, imminent, or likely.



A watch is issued when the risk of a hazardous weather event has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location, or timing is still uncertain. It is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to evacuate can do so.



A warning is issued when hazardous weather or an event is occurring, imminent, or likely. A warning means that weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. People on the storm's path must take protective action (e.g., evacuate or find a safe house to shelter in). Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)

Ready.gov provides comprehensive guidance on how to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Specific resources include:

Ready.gov: Be Informed



This resource helps you stay informed on what disasters can hit your area and helps you sign up for alerts.

Ready.gov: Build a Kit



This checklist provides information on how to build a kit of emergency supplies needed in the event of an emergency.

Ready.gov: Make a Plan



This template can be used to make a plan for your family, including communications and a family meeting place. Learn about your community's warning signals/emergency alert systems.

Sign up for local alert systems. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is available on television, radio, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios. Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are available on many smartphones. In addition, community emergency notification systems at the county or city level typically send messages to landline phones, cell phones, and email addresses.

■ **Subscribe** to status updates about disasters provided via the local media, as well as **social media**, including **Twitter**, **Facebook**, and other **social media tools**.

■ **Dial 211 (toll-free)** If you need information about where to donate or volunteer during a disaster, how to find transportation or evacuation routes, and where to meet basic needs such as food and shelter, **You can also text your ZIP code to 898211 or visit www.211info.org.**

■ **Find** out about the disaster plans at places your household frequents (e.g., **workplace**, **children's schools**).

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