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Four Steps to Safety

There are four basic steps to developing a family disaster plan:

1. Find out what could happen to you.

By learning what your risks may be, you can prepare for the disaster most likely to occur in your area. Learn more by contacting your local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter. Be prepared to take notes. Ask the following:

2. Create a Family Disaster Plan.

Once you know what disasters are possible in your area, talk about how to prepare and how to respond if one occurs. Make checklists of steps you can take as you discuss this information with your family.

3. Complete your checklists.

Take the steps outlined in the checklists you made when you created your Family Disaster Plan.

Post by phones emergency telephone numbers (fire, police, ambulance, etc.). You may not have time in an emergency to look up critical numbers.

4. Practice and maintain your plan.

Practicing your plan will help you instinctively make the appropriate response during an actual emergency. You will need to review your plan periodically and you may need to change some parts.

Quiz your kids every six months so they remember what to do, meeting places, phone numbers, and safety rules.