



This section sets out foundation messages that are considered common for all-hazards preparedness. Specific complementary messages related to different hazards like drought, earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, landslides, tropical cyclones, pandemics or wildfires are presented in the next section.

The better each household can plan ahead, reduce its risks (through structural, non-structural, infrastructural and environmental measures), develop response skills and store provisions, the greater its resilience will be. By following this guidance, households and families can protect themselves, recover quickly, and contribute to the rapid recovery of their community. Each household can be part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. This work starts with each and every one of us.



### **All-hazards household and family disaster prevention in a nutshell**

- Find out what could happen. Stay informed.
- Make a household disaster and emergency plan, considering everyone in the household.
- Reduce structural, non-structural and environmental risks in and around your home.
- Learn response skills and practise your plan.
- Prepare response provisions to survive for about a week. Prepare evacuation bags.
- Work together with your workplace, schools, neighbours and local community to assess the risks, plan to reduce them, and prepare to respond.

## Assess and plan

Key messages	Context-specific details
Assess your risks where you live, work, study and play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about potential hazards, local emergency plans and communications and warning systems in your community.</li> <li>• Identify hazards and vulnerabilities in your home and surroundings.</li> <li>• Learn about the contact information, roles and responsibilities of government agencies in assessing and reducing risks, issuing early warnings and planning for response.</li> <li>• Learn who is likely to be most exposed to different hazards, where and why.</li> <li>• Expect the unexpected.</li> </ul>
Make a plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include all household and extended family members in the planning process.</li> <li>• Meet with household and family members to discuss vulnerabilities and plan for the specific risks you face.</li> <li>• Determine what actions are needed to reduce risks and identify what resources and help you will need.</li> <li>• Plan the steps you will take to protect yourselves, to communicate, reunite and recover.</li> <li>• Decide who will do what, when and how it will get it done.</li> <li>• Practise and update the plan regularly, to reduce risks and to prepare for those you cannot eliminate.</li> </ul>
Assess individual capabilities and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify each person's individual needs and capacities. Consider all ages and functional needs – especially those related to communication and mobility.</li> <li>• Being prepared is everyone's responsibility. You can make the difference.</li> </ul>
Consider access and functional needs and create and prepare a support network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the access and functional needs of each member of the household during a disaster. If anyone will need help, for any reason, plan and identify neighbours, friends, and/or co-workers who will provide assistance during an emergency.</li> <li>• Use imagination and your network to solve problems.</li> <li>• Make sure your network knows how to operate any personal equipment that you may need in case of emergency.</li> </ul>
Make plans to reunite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree on safe meeting places inside the house, outside the house and outside the neighbourhood.</li> <li>• Pre-authorize emergency contacts for school and childcare pick-ups.</li> <li>• Decide on primary and back-up out-of-area contacts to act as an information centre for your household or family.</li> </ul>
Keep emergency contact and health information available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make emergency contact and health information cards for each household member, to be carried at all times (especially for children when they are away from home or school, and for anyone with particular access or functional needs).</li> <li>• Put a copy where it can easily be found in the event of a disaster or emergency, and share it with your support network.</li> </ul>
Know your building exit routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify your exits, and consider the safest exit routes in case of different types of hazards.</li> <li>• Keep exit pathways clear.</li> <li>• Identify a safe place away from your building (at home, at work, at school).</li> </ul>

## Public awareness and public education for disaster risk reduction

Make hazard-specific plans about whether to stay or go and where to shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For different hazards and circumstances, you may have early warning ranging from several days to no warning at all. Discuss the various possible scenarios, and decide on your safe spaces – the best shelter and/or evacuation options – for each circumstance.</li> <li>Prepare those safe spaces, whether in your home, outside or away from home.</li> </ul>
Learn and participate in your community's early warning systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn your community's early warning systems. If your community does not have one, help to develop one, taking care that the messages will be received and understood by everyone – especially the most vulnerable.</li> <li>Take warnings seriously, even if they are frequent. Be alert for changes in circumstances, as risks may increase after the early warning information is initially issued.</li> <li>Follow evacuation instructions without hesitation.</li> <li>Do not return home until local authorities say it is safe to do so.</li> </ul>
Make an evacuation plan: know your shelter destination, evacuation route and transportation method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify safe places where you can go if you need shelter or must evacuate. Everyone in the household should know where to go, and where to meet if they have to leave.</li> <li>Plan alternate evacuation routes and methods, and practise your routes.</li> <li>Work with your network to determine the transportation method if evacuation is necessary.</li> <li>Ask the local emergency manager about community plans for directed evacuation and transportation options.</li> </ul>
Learn the location of shelter, <i>safe havens</i> or temporary housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrange for temporary housing with relatives or friends away from the area at risk.</li> <li>Learn the locations of shelters or <i>safe havens</i> for your community, and check to see if any special needs should be met. If these are not known in advance, find out how you will locate a shelter.</li> <li>Plan ahead to reunite at the identified location, without detour or delay.</li> </ul>
Keep copies of important personal documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep copies of important personal documents in your evacuation bag, with your out-of-area-contact, in a safe deposit box, and electronically (for example, on a cloud, hard disk or memory stick).</li> </ul>
Include pets, service animals and livestock in your planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan how to take care of your animals.</li> <li>Use collar tags, microchips or tattoos to identify animals if they are lost. Take a picture with your pet.</li> <li>Keep vaccinations and records up-to-date, and take these details with you when evacuating.</li> <li>Identify in advance how and where you can arrange for temporary shelters.</li> </ul>
Pool your financial risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If possible, buy insurance or set up a self-insurance pool with a large group. Check that coverage includes all types of hazards you are likely to face, and make a complete inventory of your property. Keep this in a safe, out-of-area location.</li> </ul>
Expand your circles. Continue your planning and plan with your neighbours and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Know your neighbours.</li> <li>Learn about the emergency and disaster plans at school and at work.</li> <li>Get involved with workplace, school and community organizations, teams or projects to support ongoing assessment of vulnerabilities and capacities, planning, risk reduction and response-preparedness activities.</li> <li>Share what you have learned.</li> </ul>