# Disaster Preparedness Plan:

(https://lifehacker.com/5976362/the-complete-guide-to-what-to-do-before-during-and-after-a-disaster)

* Keep important documents in a safe place that is easily accessible.
* Keep a well-stocked go-backpack that will have provisions and supplies like food, water, an emergency radio, batteries, medicines.
* Plan an escape route and a safe place to meet up, from home, in case someone is left behind.
* Familiarize yourself with an emergency or disaster plan at your office. Know all the escape routes and meet-up locations.

# Disasters: Before, During, After

## Tornadoes:

Inflicts a concentrated amount of damage. Get out of the way and steer clear.

Before:

* Can’t prepare a home or business for a tornado as it has an immense destructive power.

What YOU can do:

* Make a disaster plan: What to do? Where to take shelter?
* Listen to NOAA weather radio for warnings.

During:

* If you’re indoors, shelter in a basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level.
* If you’re indoors and can’t go down stairs, go to the smallest interior room.
* If you’re driving when a warning is issued, try to drive to the closest place you can take shelter.
* If you’re driving and cannot get to a shelter, get out of the vehicle. Lay down in ditch or lower level next to the roadway.
* If you’re driving and see a tornado, don’t try to outrun it. Pull over immediately and shelter with one of the two previous methods.

After:

* Watch for debris
* Check radio to see if it is safe to return
* Be careful while cleaning up the damage.

## Hurricanes:

Dangerous and deadly when it gets close enough. Have technology that forecasts severity of a hurricane. Bring flooding, thunderstorms and tornadoes along with sustained rains and winds.

Before:

* Make a disaster plan: Go-backpack, Important documents, Fastest escape routes.
* Prepare your home: Install storm shutters, reinforce garage doors, check if area is prone to flooding.
* Familiarize yourself with emergency evacuation routes and shelters: Check for old community shelters of buildings that qualify as shelters.
* Prepare for travel: Gas tank is full, important items stowed in car, first-aid kit in car.

During:

* Monitor emergency radio, news radio, or television news for relevant information: Local news for when it is safe to go out to other parts of town, emergency radio for when to evacuate.
* Secure your home and shelter in place: Done before storm, stay away from windows and as into the interior as possible.
* Obey evacuation orders: If evacuation order is issued, leave immediately, leave all unpacked stuff behind.

After:

* Hurricanes can often leave the type of destruction that resembles floods, thunderstorms, and tornadoes all in one.
* If the storm has passed over, it is generally to leave shelter, but still monitor the emergency radio.
* May need to restore power.
* Area might be flooded.

## Earthquakes:

Shaking or rolling of the ground occurs. Cannot escape the effects of an earthquake, only understand the difference between a minor and a major earthquake. Can lead to fires or tsunamis.

Before:

* Make a disaster plan.
* Get the house ready for earthquakes: repair walls and foundations.
* Practice earthquake drills with family.
* Familiarize yourself with earthquake tips.

During:

* Shield yourself or take shelter under sturdy furniture.
* If you’re indoors, stay put.
* If you’re outdoors, get away from tall objects that may collapse.
* If you’re in a vehicle, stop quickly, but try to stray clear of tall objects.

After:

* After earthquake has passed. Don’t assume the danger is gone.
* Avoid damaged structures and watch for aftershocks.
* Execute disaster plan, meet family in safe places away from damaged structures.
* If you’re trapped under debris, make as much noise as possible.
* Listen to radio.
* Be prepared to move to higher ground if you live on coast in case of a tsunami warning.
* If the house appears damaged call a service provider to assess it.

## Floods and Tsunami:

Tsunami are series of large waves triggered by undersea earthquakes or major disruptions on the sea floor. Amount of time to prepare depends on the distance of occurrence relative to you.

Flooding can also occur in area which has had no rain, therefore we need to prepare for both adequately.

Before:

* Find High Ground, get ready to leave.
* Make sure you have a disaster plan and act as quickly as possible.
* Check FEMA’s flood map database.
* Make sure you have emergency radio in case tsunami warning is issued by NOAA.

During:

* Listen to emergency radio.
* If you’re driving, do not pass through still water, or water where you cannot see the bottom: Can cause the vehicle to stall or submerge.
* If you’re walking, don’t walk through moving or rushing water.
* Get to higher ground immediately if tsunami is imminent or a possibility of flash flood.
* If you have time, possible during a flood, move critical items to higher ground and cut of power, gas and water before you leave the house.

After:

* Same as during flood.
* Keep monitoring the emergency radio.
* Don’t waddle into receding water.
* Don’t return to flooded area until it is indicated as safe.

## House Fires:

They are deadly but preventable, unlike other disasters that give you warning and time to get away, a fire isn’t as forgiving. It is a mixture of things: smoke and toxic gases, lack of oxygen, crippling heat, scorching flames and a lack of light are all dangerous on their own.

Before:

* Make sure you have a disaster plan in case of fire: Especially practice escape routes and set up rally points, have alternative escape routes planned.
* Make sure you can open windows, screens, security bars, and doors.
* Make sure you have smoke alarms installed and the batteries are changes regularly, try to get a carbon monoxide detector also.
* Keep household fire extinguishers handy.

During:

* Keep low, get out.
* Escape is priority, leave belongings and leave immediately.
* Get to the nearest exit immediately.
* Check door handles, if warm, do not open the door.
* Once outside, contact emergency services.
* Do not attempt to go b ack into burning building.

After:

* House fires are destructive, you won’t be able to return until danger has passed.
* Contact insurance company, landlord, mortgage company, or other relevant agencies to let them know about the fire.