

## Disaster Communication Signs in FSL

### Introduction

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This guide provides Filipino Sign Language (FSL) signs most commonly needed during disaster situations. Practice these with all family members — both hearing and Deaf — before an emergency occurs.

### Disaster Type Signs

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- TYPHOON — Circle index finger overhead in a wide spiral.
- FLOOD — Both hands flat, fingers spread, wave upward slowly.
- EARTHQUAKE — Both fists, shake horizontally side to side.
- FIRE — Open hand, fingers wiggling upward like flames.
- LANDSLIDE — One hand slides down over the other (like a slope).
- TSUNAMI — Both hands flat, push forward in a large wave motion.

### Status and Safety Signs

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- SAFE — Cross arms over chest, then open outward like "all clear."
- DANGER / UNSAFE — Form an "X" with crossed forearms.
- HELP — Open hand, thumb up, palm facing out, raise upward.
- SOS — Tap index finger rapidly 3 times (Morse-inspired universal distress).
- OK / FINE — "OK" hand gesture (index + thumb circle, other fingers up).
- NOT OK — Thumbs down, or shake head + "X" with fingers.

### Location and Direction Signs

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- HERE — Point down with index finger firmly.
- THERE — Point outward in the direction.
- GO / MOVE — Point index finger forward, flick wrist forward.
- STAY — Open palm facing down, press downward slightly.
- WHERE — Open hand, palms up, shrug shoulders.
- OUTSIDE — Point outward, then sweep hand to the side.
- INSIDE — Point inward, curl finger toward body.

- UPSTAIRS / HIGHER GROUND — Point or gesture upward.

## Needs and Resources Signs

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- WATER — "W" handshape (3 fingers up) tapped on chin.
- FOOD — Fingers pinched, bring to mouth.
- MEDICINE — Tap wrist with index and middle fingers.
- BATHROOM — Letter "T" handshake (thumb between index and middle).
- SLEEP / REST — Hands together, tilt head onto them.
- COLD — Both fists close to chest, shiver gesture.
- WARM / HEAT — Open hand near face, move outward.

## Communication Tips During Disasters

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- Maintain eye contact when signing — this is part of FSL grammar.
- Use facial expressions — they change the meaning of signs.
- Speak or mouth words simultaneously if the Deaf person reads lips.
- Write on paper or use your phone screen if you do not know a sign.
- The Silent Signal app has pre-written FSL-compatible emergency messages.
- Designate one family member as the FSL interpreter during drills.