

FAMILY PREPAREDNESS FOR TYPHOON EMERGENCIES

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Introduction

Typhoons, also known as tropical cyclones, are strong and intense storms identified by their strong winds, heavy rainfall, and storm surges. They commonly affect coastal areas and can cause widespread damage to infrastructure, property, and human lives. In areas prone to typhoons, such as Southeast Asia, particularly the Philippines, Japan, Vietnam, and Taiwan, families are often at high risk of experiencing the catastrophic effects of these typhoons.

Family preparedness is important for minimizing the damaging impacts of typhoons. Proper planning helps guarantee the safety and survival of human lives, reduces the chances of injury, and lessens property loss. A well-prepared family is better equipped and ready to respond to the challenges potentially caused by typhoons, such as food shortages, power outages, and evacuation scenarios. Therefore, a well-thought-out preparedness plan is essential to protect both life and property during these events.

Despite the continuous nature of typhoons in many locations, many families remain concerningly unprepared. Major families face difficult challenges during typhoons due to lack of information, limited resources, poor communication, evacuation challenges, and inadequate infrastructure.

Objectives

Safety of Family Members: Lessen or minimize the risk of injury or death of family members by implementing clear safety protocols and plans during the typhoon.

Access to Emergency Resources: Ensure that families have easy access to essential items or necessities such as food, water, clothing, first-aid supplies, and power sources to last for a few days.

Effective Communication: Establish communication plans to keep family members informed, coordinated, and connected during and after the typhoon.

Evacuation Readiness: Develop evacuation plans that are clear, and accessible, ensuring everyone knows where to evacuate.

Property Protection: Implement strategies to protect the family home and belongings from damage, such as reinforcing windows, doors, and roofs.

Methodology

To prepare effectively for a typhoon, families must follow this plan with an accompanying timeline:

<i>Action</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Details</i>
Create a Family Emergency Plan	2 weeks before typhoon season begins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify safe areas within the home and community. Identify the nearest evacuation center that each family member can go to. - Assign proper roles and responsibilities to family members in the event of an emergency. - Plan how to communicate if cell service or the internet is down. Plan how each individual in the family can meet in one

		safe place.
		- Create a plan for evacuating with pets, important documents, and emergency kits.
Prepare an Emergency Kit	2 weeks before typhoon season begins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include enough food, clothing, and water to last for at least three days. - Pack essential medications like vitamin C, first-aid supplies, flashlights, extra batteries, and a portable radio. - Add personal hygiene items, blankets, and clothing.
Strengthen the Home	1 week before typhoon season begins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board up windows with wood planks to protect from flying debris. - Reinforce or strengthen doors to prevent them from collapsing under pressure. - Trim trees and shrubs around the house to reduce the risk of falling branches. - Clear gutters and drains to prevent flooding.
Review and Update Plan	1 week before typhoon season begins	Ensure that each family member is familiar with the emergency plan and update it if necessary. Conduct a simple and effective practice drill.
Replenish Supplies	2-3 days before a predicted storm	Adequately review emergency kits, check expiration dates, and replenish perishable items such as batteries, food, and water.
Secure Valuables	2-3 days before a predicted storm	Place important documents, valuables, and electronics in waterproof containers and a safe location, so they won't get wet during the typhoon.
Evacuate or Shelter in Place	1 day before or upon receiving an evacuation order	Follow local authorities' instructions. Ensure the family and emergency kits are ready for immediate action.
Monitor Weather Reports	Continuous during typhoon season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor official weather channels and radio stations for the latest updates on the storm's trajectory. You can also follow their official social media accounts for any recent updates regarding the movement and impacts of the typhoons approaching the country. Follow local government

instructions regarding evacuations or shelter-in-place orders.

Conclusion

Typhoons are intense and devastating natural disasters, which lead to catastrophic events that can impact the lives of many. But, with proper preparedness, families can reduce their risk of harm. By developing a family emergency plan, preparing essential supplies, strengthening their homes, and staying informed about typhoon conditions, families can improve their chances of surviving the storm safely and recovering more quickly. Family preparedness is a crucial step in gaining resilience against the unpredictable nature of typhoons and ensuring the protection of the lives of the people and their property.

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