

Final Project: Personal Natural Disaster Plan - Part 1

Description:

The purpose of this project is to design a personal/family natural disaster plan. We have learned throughout this course that natural disaster can strike at any time and without warning. Knowing what to do in the event of a natural disaster can be your best preparation against an unexpected natural disaster. This assignment is based on the Your Family Disaster Plan brochure from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and American Red Cross.

Personal Natural Disaster Plan Instructions:

Read the Your Family Disaster Plan Brochure and fill out and answer the questions on the downloadable document. Please DO NOT include any personal contact information (phone numbers, addresses, bank account numbers, etc.) on this assignment. The following are the 4 steps to safety:

1. Find out what could happen to you
2. Create a disaster plan
3. Complete the emergency checklist
4. Practice and maintain your plan

Step 1: Find out what could happen to you

- What are the most common types of natural disasters in your area? List at least two natural disaster types.
 - Natural disaster 1: Earthquakes – Utah is near the Wasatch Fault, which has potential for major seismic activity.
 - Natural disaster 2: Winter storms – Heavy snow and ice storms can lead to power outages and dangerous travel conditions.
- Does your community have a disaster plan and what are the warning signals used by your community?

Logan City and Cache County have emergency management systems that use siren alerts, emergency text notifications, and local radio broadcasts to warn residents about earthquakes, floods, or severe weather events.

- Do you have pets? If so, is there animal care after a disaster? Health regulations may restrict animals within emergency shelters.

Yes, we have a pet. Local shelters usually do not allow pets due to health rules, so we plan to stay with family members outside the area if evacuation is necessary.

- Are there elderly or disabled persons who may need help in the event of a disaster?

My grandpa lives with my parents, but he can handle moving on his own.

- What are the disaster plans for your workplace, school, or other locations you spend time? Provide at least one disaster plan for a location you spend time.

At Utah State University, students and staff follow Aggie Alert notifications and shelter-in-place procedures during severe weather or earthquakes. The university designates specific buildings as safe zones with emergency supplies and instructions posted.

I work only during the summertime out of state, so this will not apply to my summer-time plan.

Step 2: Create a disaster plan

Pick one of the above mentioned natural disasters to answer the following questions.

Nature Disaster Type:

Earthquake

- Identify two meeting places:

1. One close to your residence in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire or earthquake. Where will you meet? Why there?

The open field behind our house is free from buildings, power lines, and gas mains.

2. One outside of your neighborhood or town in case you cannot return home. Where will you meet? Why there?

My parent's house. It is far enough away from our house in Hyrum, but closer to Logan.

- In the event of an evacuation list five important items to take with you. Why are they important?
- 72-hour emergency kit – essential for survival.
- First aid kit – to treat injuries and prevent infection.
- Important documents (IDs, insurance papers) – needed for recovery and assistance.
- Cash and credit card – for fuel, food, and lodging if ATMs are down.
- Phone charger or battery bank – to stay connected and receive updates.

Step 3: Emergency Checklist Items

- Does your residence have smoke detectors/carbon monoxide detectors? Where are they located?

Yes in each bedroom, hallway, and near the furnace room. Batteries are checked every six months.

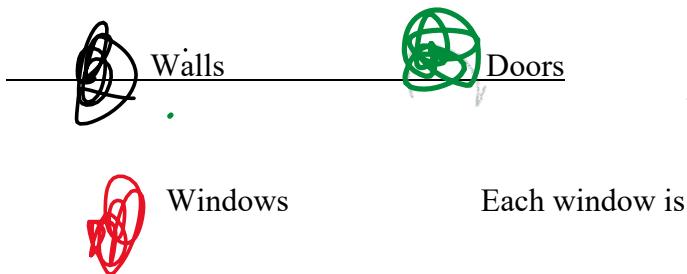
- Conduct a home hazard hunt. During a natural disaster ordinary objects in your home can result in damage, injury, or death. List two home hazards you discovered. Why are they a hazard? What can be done to mitigate the hazards?
 1. Dresser not anchored to the wall.

We don't really have any hazards. We haven't lived here long, so we don't have much stuff.

- Stock emergency supplies. List 10 items you would include in a 72 hour kit.
 - Bottled water (1 gallon per person per day)
 - Non-perishable food
 - Flashlight and extra batteries
 - First aid kit
 - Blanket or sleeping bag
 - Multi-tool
 - Hygiene supplies (toothbrush, soap, sanitizer)
 - Extra clothing and sturdy shoes
 - Copies of important documents
 - Whistle and local maps
- Use the provided graph paper to sketch a blueprint layout of your residence. The following should be labeled on your sketch:
 - Identify possible exits from your residence.
 - Identify utility shutoff locations (water, gas, and electricity)
 - Identify safest location/locations within your residence for the disaster type you selected. Why did you choose this location/locations?

Step 4: Practice and maintain your plan

This is an important part of your plan.



Each window is a possible exit and each exterior door is a possible exit.

