Where will your family be when disaster strikes? At home? School? Work? Will you be able to contact each other? Will you know how to stay safe?

Creating a family disaster plan is the first step toward disaster safety. The next is making sure your family knows the plan. Conduct a drill at least once a year to keep everyone ready for the real thing.

Here’s how to put together your family disaster plan:

**Discuss these questions:**

- What is my family/household communication plan?
- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my shelter plan?
- Is my disaster supply kit up-to-date?

**Keep in mind these specific household needs:**

- Ages of household members
- Medical needs like prescriptions and equipment
- Disabilities or access and functional needs
- Dietary needs
- Pets or service animals
- Languages spoken

**Set up a family meeting place:**

- Pick two places to meet your family. Meet outside your home in case of a sudden emergency or at a friend’s or neighbor’s house if you can’t return home.
- Be sure that everyone knows the address and phone number for each meet-up location.

**Determine an emergency contact:**

- Ask an out-of-town friend to be your emergency contact. Everyone must know this person’s phone number. Family members should call this person and tell them where they are located.