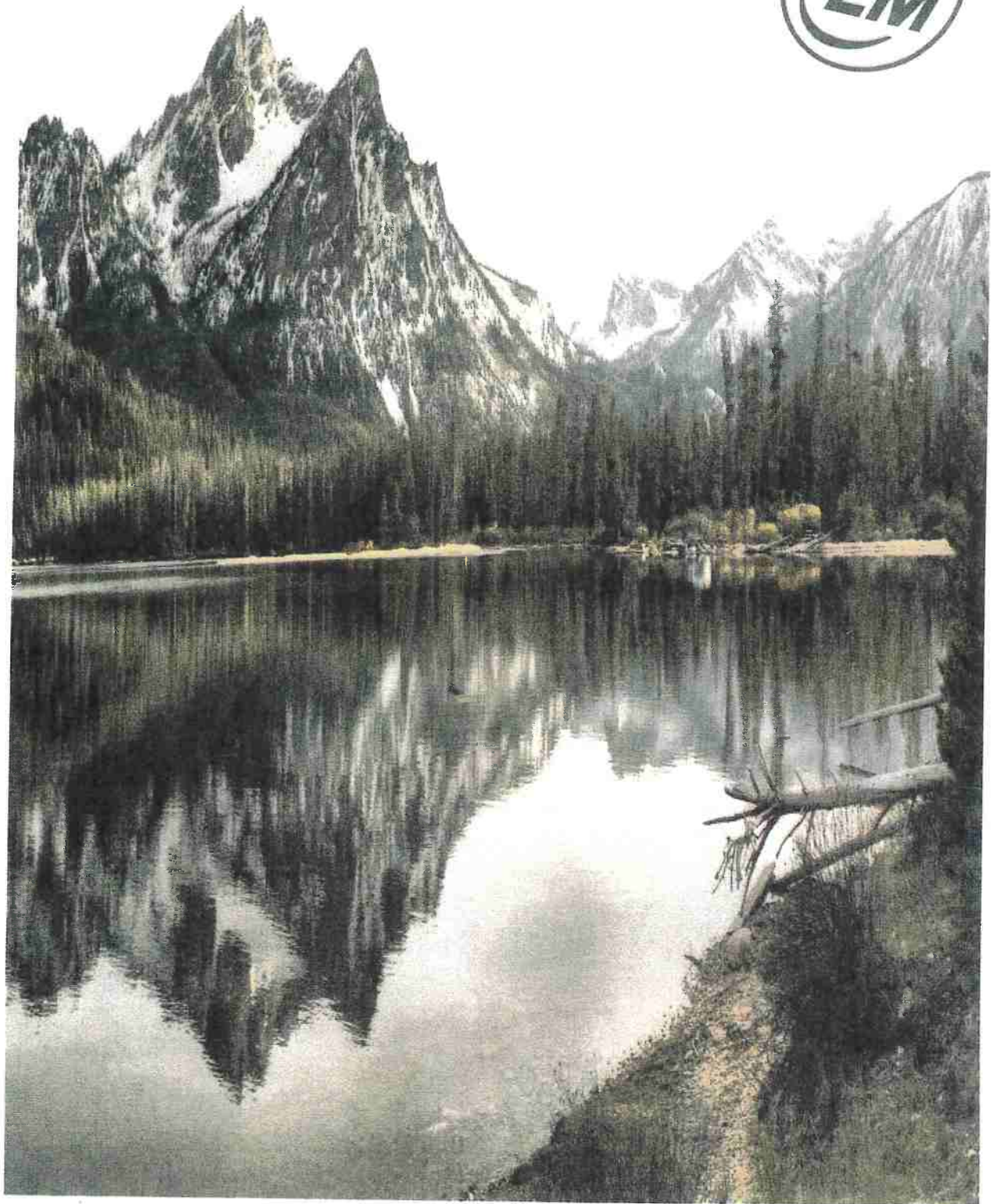




CUSTER COUNTY OFFICE of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Custer County Courthouse
801 East Main Ave.
PO Box 385
Challis, Idaho 83226



As your Custer County Emergency Manager, my duties are many. I work under the Custer County Commissioners, and work with all County Emergency Entities from Law Enforcement, EMT'S, Fire Departments, Search & Rescue and more such as Forest Service and BLM. I work very closely with the Idaho Office Of Emergency Management that is under the Idaho National Guard, located at Gowen Field Air Force Base in Boise.

As the Emergency Manager it is my job to work with all emergency entities to keep the people of Custer County safe. The five categories of my job are PREVENTION-PROTECTION-MITIGATION-RESPONSE-RECOVERY. This covers many different aspects of Emergencies and/or Disasters. It is my job to do things that can help prevent disasters and protect the people of our county. By mitigating disasters before they happen will hopefully reduce the response time and the recovery when a disaster happens.

Another one of my major jobs is keeping all types of Plans for the County up to date that must be updated every 5 years. There are many different types of plans from The All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Emergency Operation Plan, The Custer County Wildfire Protection Plan and many more. This entails knowing what disasters or emergencies could happen in our area and having a plan on how to respond and recover from each one.

Working with Emergency personnel is a very important part of my job. In an emergency all must work as a team with the same goal in mind. Being familiar with all entities and how they operate is very important for success in this job. It is my job to coordinate resources and information for all entities during an incident. Once on a scene the Incident Command System is followed by all entities. This takes organization, leadership, communication, and teamwork. In this job you must be a critical thinker, able to adapt to different situations quickly with compassion and authority.

On an average day at my job consists of a lot of Zoom Meetings with many different organizations. Working on plans and grants for the county, along with working on training exercises and emergency drills for public places including schools. It is my job to educate the people of our community on how to help themselves and others during a disaster in our county so that the recovery can happen quickly.

I chose this job because I still have the desire to make a difference for the people of Custer County. I want to help protect lives, strengthen Communities, and support people during difficult times. I have already had experience as a Dispatcher, Reserve Officer, Jailer, Ambulance Driver, and Search & Rescue Commander so this was the next step in my career of Community Service. If this is something that you think may interest you, please feel free to reach out to me and we will set up a time to get together.

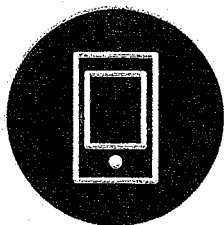
Thank You

Lisa Benson

Lisa Benson
Custer County Emergency Management Officer
(208) 833-6168
ccem@co.custer.id.us



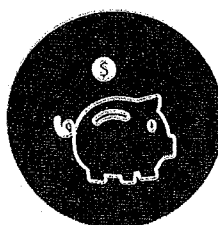
12 Ways to Prepare *Before* a Disaster Happens:



**Sign Up for
Alerts and
Warnings**



**Make a
Plan**



**Save for a
Rainy Day**



**Practice
Emergency
Drills**



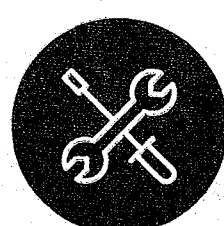
**Test Family
Communication
Plan**



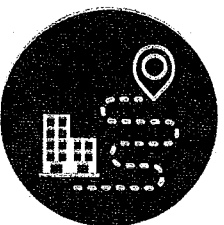
**Safeguard
Documents**



**Plan with
Neighbors**



**Make Your
Home Safer**



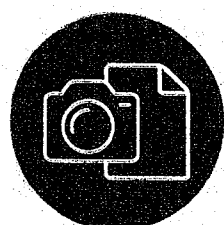
**Know
Evacuation
Routes**



**Assemble
or Update
Supplies**



**Get Involved
in Your
Community**



**Document
and Insure
Property**

Your Family Disaster Plan

Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services – water, gas, electricity or telephone – were cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone right away. Medical help may not arrive at all. County resources will be overwhelmed in a major disaster.

Families can – and do – cope with disaster by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Follow the steps listed in this brochure to create your family's disaster plan. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility.

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere – at work, at school, or in the car.

How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe?

Steps to Safety

1. Find Out What Disaster Could Happen to You

- Natural; Human; Technological; Winter Storm; Bomb Threat; Structural Failures; Wildland Fire; Fire; Transportation Failures; Earthquake; Utilities Failure; Terrorism; Cold/Heat Wave; Hazardous Materials; Pandemic Influenza

2. Create a Disaster Plan

- Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster. Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather, and earthquakes to children. Plan to share the responsibilities and work together as a team. Discuss the following and explain what to do in each case.
- Pick two places to meet:
 - Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
 - Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.
- Ask an out-of-state friend or relative to be your "Family Contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact phone number.
- Discuss what to do in an evacuation. Plan how to take care of your pets.

3. Complete this Checklist:

- Post emergency telephone numbers (fire, police, ambulance, etc.).
- Teach children how and when to call 911 for emergency help.
- Show each family member how and when to turn off the water, gas, and electricity at the main switches.
- Check if you have adequate insurance coverage.
- Teach each family member how to use the fire extinguisher (ABC type) and show them where it's kept.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Conduct a home hazard hunt.
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Take a First Aid and CPR Class.
- Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room.
- Find a safe spot in your home for each type of disaster.
- Practice and maintain your plan.
- Quiz your family every six months so they remember what to do.
- Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.
- Replace stored water every three months and stored food every six months.
- Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Every six months is even better.

72-Hour Kit

Disaster happens anytime and anywhere, often without notice. You and your family will cope best by preparing for a disaster before it strikes. Prepare a kit, utilizing the following:

- Large duffel bag, sturdy trash bag, backpack, etc. for containing of supplies
- Store water in containers that don't break down such as milk cartons or glass containers. Store one gallon of water per person per day. To purify, add 10 drops of bleach per gallon of water (not color-safe bleach). Water can be boiled for 10-12 minutes to purify; however, during an emergency, boiling is usually not an option.
- Store at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable foods that require no refrigeration, preparation, or cooking, and little to no water. Such foods include ready-to-eat meats, fruits, vegetables, granola bars, pop tarts, crackers, trail mix, nuts, etc. Include a can opener, utensil, and a utility knife.

First Aid Kit

- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- Sterile gauze pads in assorted sizes
- Hypo-allergenic adhesive tape
- Roll-type bandages, Ace wrap, adhesive bandages
- Scissors and tweezers
- Epi-pen (if allergic to bee stings)
- Sewing needles
- Moistened towelette/wet wipes
- Antiseptic (iodine compounds, etc.)
- Neosporin
- Thermometer
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Latex gloves
- Calamine lotion
- First aid manual
- Rubbing Alcohol
- Heavy string or thread
- Cotton balls
- Splinting materials (cardboard, magazines, cut-up sheets in 40-inch squares for sling and swath)
- Non-prescription meds of pain reliever, anti-diarrhea, antacids, laxatives, aspirin
- Prescription medications

Tools and Supplies

- Mess kits or paper/plastic products for eating on
- Emergency Preparedness manual/guide
- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries,
- Or solar/hand-crank radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries and/ or flashlight (crank, friction, or with batteries)
- Cash
- Non-electric can opener, utility tool
- Fire extinguisher (ABC type)
- Tent
- Pliers
- Duct tape
- Compass
- Matches in waterproof container
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic storage containers
- Signal flares
- Paper, pencils
- Needles, thread
- Shut-off wrench for gas and water
- Whistle
- Plastic tarp or sheeting
- Extra set of car and house keys
- Maps

Sanitation

- Toilet paper, towelettes
- Soap, liquid detergent (SOS /Brillo-type pads with dry soap)
- Feminine supplies
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Plastic garbage bags, and ties for disposal of biohazards
- Plastic bucket with a tight lid
- Disinfectant and household chlorine bleach

Clothing and Bedding

- Sturdy shoes
- At least one change of clothes and footwear
- Rain gear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Hat, gloves, thermal underwear
- Sunglasses

Special Items

Remember family members with special requirements such as infants and elderly, disabled, and those medicated.

For Baby

- Formula
- Diapers
- Bottles & powdered milk
- Medications

For Adults

- Medication (prescribed and over the counter)
- Denture care needs
- Contact lenses and supplies
- Extra eyeglasses

For Pets

- Medications, including for fleas and worms
- Records
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses
- Carrier
- Pet beds, toys
- Litter and pan
- Current photos
- Food and drinkable water for three days

Other

- Books to read
- Family records, credit card info and numbers, birth, marriage certificates, passports, etc.
- Phone numbers
- Inventory of valuable items and insurance information
- Waterproof case for these records

Reminders

- Store records where all in the family are aware of and in a protected container.
- Change stored water every six months.
- Replace stored food every 6 months.
- Rethink your kit at least once a year (batteries, medications, etc.)
- Speak to your doctor regarding storing medications and read labels of food and drugs as well as date stamp

Prepare Your Vehicles

If you are evacuating an area or you are stranded in your vehicle, you should make sure your vehicle is prepared to help you survive. Prepare now by storing the following items in your vehicle and be sure to rotate the items periodically. Keep vehicles fueled (try to maintain at least 1/2 tank of gas), and in good condition, and check weather and road conditions before a trip. Keep food, water, and blankets close to the driver if traveling alone.

- First-aid kit with manual
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Cell phone and phone card
- Roadside assistance card
- Portable radio and extra batteries
- Fire Extinguisher (5 lb A-B-C type)
- Extra fuses
- Flares or hazard reflectors
- Jumper cables
- Properly inflated spare tire
- Jack, lug wrench, tire gauge
- Basic tool kit
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Small folding shovel
- Sand for traction
- Duct tape
- Gloves, rags, paper towels
- List of important phone numbers
- Travel maps
- Waterproof matches and candles
- Whistle and small mirror
- Pen, pencil, paper
- Cash (bills and coins)
- Drinking water
- Non-perishable energy foods
- Disinfectant (bleach)
- Can opener
- Medications
- Toiletries
- Pre-moistened Wipes
- Good shoes
- Extra clothes, gloves, and hats
- Blankets or sleeping bag
- Flares, parking emergency triangles, etc.

Home Hazard Hunt

Check for Electrical Hazards

- Repair or replace damaged cords and plugs.
- Remove cords under rugs or over nails, pipes, or heaters.
- Use one plug per outlet; don't string surge protectors together.
- Put covers on outlets or electrical boxes.
- Repair/replace appliances that spark, smoke, or overheat.

Check for Chemical Hazards

- Store flammable chemicals in approved containers and a well-ventilated place outside your home.
- Store oily rags in covered metal containers.
- Limit quantities of household chemicals and store them out of reach of children.
- Separate reactive chemicals like bleach and ammonia.

Check for Fire Hazards

- Eliminate combustibles (yard waste, papers, rags, old mattresses).
- Separate heat sources (appliances, candles, portable heaters, etc.) and combustibles.
- Keep chimneys, flue pipes, vents, and vent connectors clean and in good repair.
- Keep portable heaters in low-traffic areas.

Safety Equipment

- Install a smoke alarm in each bedroom, hallway, and level of your home.
- Test monthly and replace batteries at least yearly.
- Learn how to use your ABC fire extinguisher.

Secure Large Items in Home

- Anchor water heater, large appliances, tall or heavy furniture, and pictures to studs in the wall.
- Install a flexible gas line on gas appliances.
- Store heavy objects on lower shelves; secure cabinet doors.
- Avoid placing beds under windows or heavy objects.
- Brace overhead light fixtures or fans.

Utilities

- Show responsible members of the family the location of utility shut-off valves and how to operate them.

Evacuation

Several types of disasters may force you to be evacuated from your home. If you are told to evacuate, take the following steps:

- Listen carefully to instructions given by local officials.
- Evacuate immediately if told to do so.
- If you have time, grab your portable disaster (72-hour) kit.
 - Make sure that you include any last-minute items, such as prescription medication, that you may need.
- Wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Lock your home.
- Use travel routes outlined by local officials (do not take shortcuts; they may be unsafe).
- Keep at least ½ tank of fuel in your car if evacuation seems likely. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies.
- If you go to a shelter, notify staff of any special needs that you may have.

Be prepared to leave your home if:

- Your area is without electrical power or water for an extended period.
- There is a chemical emergency affecting your area.
- Flood water is rising.
- A wildland fire is burning near your home.
- Your home has been severely damaged.
- Local officials tell you to evacuate.

Evacuations are more common than people realize. Hundreds of times each year, individuals are evacuated for various reasons including transportation and industrial accidents, fires, floods, etc.

A winter storm brings snow, sleet, ice accumulation, wind, or a combination of these hazards.



Winter Storm Warning

Take action! A winter storm is **occurring** or is **about to occur**; expect snow, sleet, ice, wind, or a combination of these hazards.



A winter storm will occur within **12 to 48 hours**.



If You Get this Alert at Home:



Check supplies, food, and water, and make a plan to use these supplies for at least 3 days.



Limit your time outside and wear warm clothes.



Prepare for power outages and have a plan in case you lose heat.



If You Get this Alert in Your Car:



Put an emergency kit in your car.



Stay off the roads.

ICE, SNOW & EXTREME COLD

Winter storms are dangerous. Snow and ice storms can make roads impassable and cause power outages at exactly the time when power is crucial for warmth.

ADD TO YOUR DISASTER KIT

If you live in an area where winter storms occur, make sure you have the following items:

- Rock salt to melt ice from walkways or driveways.
- Sand for traction when driving.
- Snow shovel to clear walkways.
- A way to stay warm if the power goes out, such as a generator, alternative heating fuel or a fireplace and dry wood.

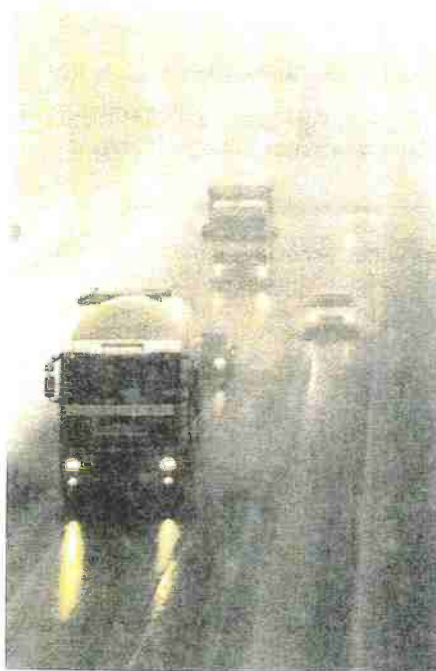
WATCHES AND WARNINGS

- A winter storm **WATCH** is issued when it is believed a storm may occur in your area.
- A winter storm **WARNING** is issued when a winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

THE DANGERS: FROSTBITE AND HYPOTHERMIA

If a winter storm is expected, stay tuned to radio or television to keep up with the latest developments. Stay out of the storm. If you do find yourself outside in extreme cold, watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia.

Signs of frostbite and hypothermia are dangerous conditions that can lead to permanent damage or death. If someone has the signs, attempt to warm them up from the center (torso) out. Providing hot non-alcoholic fluids that do not contain caffeine will help. Seek medical help.



DRIVING

Getting stuck in a car during a winter storm is very dangerous.

Winterize your car by making sure it has the following:

- Strong battery
- Plenty of antifreeze
- Winterized wiper fluid
- Extra wiper blades
- Working heater
- No leaks or crimps in exhaust pipe
- Snow tires and/or tire chains
- At least a half tank of gas
- Winter-weight oil (see car owner's manual)

Keep the following items in your car in winter months:

- Jumper cables
- Windshield scraper
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Small shovel
- Sand to put under tires for traction
- Bright cloth to use as a distress flag

If you do become stuck in a winter storm, make sure your car is safely off the roadway. Turn on the flashers. Hang a bright distress flag from the antenna or out a window. Stay in your car unless you can see a building nearby. Distances are deceiving in heavy snowfall, and getting lost on foot can be fatal in extreme cold. To stay warm, run the engine and heater for 10 minutes each hour. Keep an upwind window open slightly in case of a carbon monoxide leak. Make sure the exhaust pipe stays clear of snow. If you are in a remote area, spell out HELP or SOS with rocks or limbs so it is visible from the air. Keep a light on inside the car at night to attract notice from rescuers. When the storm or blizzard passes, it may be possible to seek help on foot.

Winter Storms

Before a Storm

- Arrange for an emergency heat supply in case of power failure.
- Prepare auto, battery-powered equipment, food, heating fuel, and other supplies.
- Prepare a car winter survival kit (refer to Prepare Your Vehicle section) and keep the car fuel tank half full.

During and After the Storm

- At home, stay in your house; use your emergency supplies kit and avoid travel.
- Dress warmly and wear multiple layers of protective, loose-fitting clothing, scarves, mittens, and hoods.
- If in the cold, cover your mouth and nose to protect your lungs from extremely cold air.
- Avoid overexertion; heart attacks are a major cause of death during and after storms (shoveling has led to heart attacks, so don't overdo it).
- Beware of the chill factor if winds are present.
- Be prepared for isolation at home and make sure you can survive for a week or two in case a storm isolates you and makes it impossible for you to leave.

If Trapped in Your Car

- Stay in your car for visibility and warmth; do not try to walk out.
- Use a candle for warmth.
- Run the motor for only 10 minutes each hour for heat with the rear window open slightly for ventilation.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.
- Change position frequently.
- Stay alert and do not let all occupants of the car sleep at once.
- About 70% of winter deaths related to snow and ice occur in automobiles. Travel by car in daylight, don't travel alone, keep others notified of your schedule, and stay on main roads.

A flash flood is a damaging and life-threatening, rapid rise of water into an area that's normally dry. A flash flood may occur within minutes to hours after an event like intense rainfall or dam failure.



Flash Flood Warning

Take action! A dangerous, life-threatening flood is **occurring** or **about to occur**.



A flash flood is **occurring** or **about to occur**.



If You Get this Alert at Home:



Move to higher ground immediately if in a flood-prone area.



Evacuate immediately if told to do so.



Protect property only if it is safe to do so.



If You Get this Alert in Your Car:



Turn Around Don't Drown® Do not drive through flood waters.



Avoid flood waters.



Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.

LANDSLIDES & MUDSLIDES

Landslides are masses of rocks, earth or debris sliding down a slope. Sometimes they happen as a result of rain, earthquakes or volcanoes. Human activities such as excavation can also cause them.

Mudslides or mudflows are like landslides that are saturated with water, so the sliding debris becomes a river of mud, sometimes called a slurry. Mudslides often happen as a result of heavy rainfall or snowmelt. They can sometimes travel for miles.

Landslides and mudslides are both very dangerous, threatening anything in their path. They happen in all 50 states, causing an estimated 25-50 deaths a year in the United States. Certain areas are especially vulnerable. These are often in mountains, canyons or coastal regions.

Landslides and mudslides often happen with little or no warning, so it is vital to plan ahead if you live in a high risk location. Avoid building a home near steep slopes, drainage paths or natural erosion valleys. An expert can perform a ground assessment of your property. They may be able to recommend things to minimize the danger of a slide. These may include:

- Planting ground cover vegetation, which helps hold dirt in place.
- Building retaining walls around your lot.
- Digging channels to drain water.
- Using flexible water and gas pipe fittings to lower the chance of breaks.

If you live in an area at risk of slides, it is vital to have at least two escape routes planned. Also have a plan for the family to communicate if separated, for instance by agreeing to contact a certain relative.



WARNING SIGNS

Below are warning signs and changes in water drainage and land movement.

- Trees, fences or poles that start to lean
- Doors or windows that begin jamming
- Cracks in walls, floor, exterior of home or foundation
- Walls, walkways or stairways that pull away from building
- Cracks in ground, driveway or street
- Bulges in ground, especially at bottom of a slope
- Broken underground utility lines
- Underground water breaking through surface
- Scattered rocks or debris at bottom of a slope
- Shifting ground under your feet
- Rumbling sound, trees cracking or boulders knocking together
- Small landslides or mudslides may happen before a big one

Flooding

Before a Flood

- Know the elevation of your property in relation to flood plains, streams, and other waterways. Determine if your property may be flooded.
- Plan what to do and where to go in case of a flood.
- Prepare a Family Emergency Supplies Kit – 72-Hour Kit.
- Fill your car with gas in case you have to evacuate.
- Move furniture and essential items to higher elevations, if time permits.
- Have a portable radio and flashlights with extra batteries.
- Secure your home.
- Consider flood and earthquake insurance.

Evacuation

- Listen to local radio or TV for weather information.
- If asked to evacuate, shut off the main power switch, main gas valve, and water valve. Follow local evacuation plans and routes.
- Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road; it may be washed out. While on the road, watch for possible flooding of bridges, dips, and low areas.
- Watch out for damaged roads, slides and fallen wires.
- Drive slowly in water; use low gear.
- Abandon your vehicle immediately if it stalls and seek higher ground.
- Do not attempt to cross a stream on foot where water is above your knees.
- Register at your designated evacuation center and remain there until informed you may leave.

After a Flood

- Remain away from the evacuated area until public health officials and building inspectors have given approval.
- Check for structural damage before entering.
- Make sure the electricity is off, watch for electrical wires.
- Do not use open flame as a light source because of the possibility of escaping gas. Use flashlights. Beware of dangerous sparks. Do not use food contaminated by flood water.
- Test drinking water for suitability with test kits.
- Avoid walking in flood water. Do not let children play in flood water.

EARTHQUAKES

An earthquake is a sudden shaking of the ground. Weak earthquakes are only a minor annoyance. However, strong earthquakes can collapse buildings and bridges, crack pavement, trigger tsunamis, landslides and fires. They are unpredictable and pose a great hazard to human property and life.

WHY EARTHQUAKES HAPPEN: PLATE TECTONICS 101

An earthquake is a sudden release of energy that creates seismic waves. More often than not, earthquakes are caused by a rupture along geological faults, they may also be caused by other events such as volcanoes, mine blasts, military and nuclear testing.

The top layer of our planet is divided into plates, like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Where these pieces meet is called a geological fault. These plates sit atop a hot layer of mantle. At places where two plates rub against each other, tension can build up and then release suddenly. When this happens, a wave of vibrations radiates outward. That is what we feel as an earthquake.



ARE YOU AT RISK?

If you live in an area prone to earthquakes, make sure your dwelling is up to local building codes. Consider securing large objects like appliances to the wall or floor to prevent sliding or tumbling during a quake. 4" L-brackets and lag bolts are excellent to use for this. Velcro can be used for securing things like computers to stronger objects. Bolt pictures, mirrors and other objects securely to studs behind the walls. Place heavy objects low to the ground. Install latches on cabinet doors to prevent them from opening during a quake.

In your home, notice where the safest spots in each room are, such as under a strong table or against an inside wall. Have earthquake drills where family members practice going to the nearest of these.

Install flexible water or gas pipe fittings to help avoid breakage and leaks during an earthquake. If your gas company recommends it, have a valve that automatically shuts off the gas when there are strong vibrations.

WHEN THE SHAKING STARTS

If you are inside during an earthquake, take cover

- Under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- Standing against an interior wall.
- In a doorway IF you know it is load-bearing (doorways may be more dangerous than other spots due to the door swinging violently or people trying to run out).

Most injuries and deaths in earthquakes are from collapsing walls and falling objects. The greatest danger is just outside of buildings. Wait until shaking stops before going outside. Do not use elevators.

If you are outside:

- Move to an open space away from buildings, streetlights and power lines.

If you are in a car

- Come to a safe stop away from trees, buildings, overpasses and power lines, if possible.
- Stay in the car.
- When the shaking stops, proceed cautiously and watch for damage to roads or bridges.

Smaller quakes called aftershocks typically occur within hours to days following strong quakes. Even less powerful aftershocks may collapse buildings that have already been damaged. Occasionally a "foreshock" earthquake may be followed by the main, stronger quake.

Earthquakes

Before an Earthquake

- Secure the water heater, storage shelves, heavy mirrors, shelves, etc. to walls.
- Know where and how to shut off utilities of electricity, gas, and water (main valves, switches, etc.).
- Have earthquake drills and identify safe spots in each room.
- Have an out-of-state contact person.
- Develop a plan for reuniting family members after the earthquake.
- Review your insurance policies.
- Keep a good pair of shoes and a flashlight near your bed.
- Prepare to survive on your own for at least three days.

During An Earthquake

- If inside, stay inside and find protection in a doorway, or crouch under a desk or table, away from windows, glass, brick walls, and chimneys.
- If outside, stand away from buildings, trees, telephones, and electric lines.
- If on the road, drive away from underpasses or overpasses; stop in a safe area; stay in your vehicle.
- If in an office building, stay next to a pillar or column, or under a heavy table or desk.
- Stay where you are until the shaking has stopped and you are sure it is safe to move.

After An Earthquake

- Check for injuries and provide first aid.
- Check for fires; gas, water, sewage breaks; downed electric lines; building damage, and potential problems from aftershocks, such as cracks around the fireplace and foundation. Turn off interrupted utilities as necessary.
- Clean up dangerous spills.
- Wear shoes and leather gloves.
- Tune a radio to an emergency station and listen for public emergency broadcast announcements.
- Use the telephone only for emergencies.
- As soon as possible, notify family that you are safe.
- Do not use matches or open flames until you are sure there are not any gas leaks as a result of impacts from the shock(s).
- Do not turn the light on and off, creating sparks and ignition sources for gas leaks.
- In public buildings, follow evacuation procedures immediately and return after the building has been declared safe by the appropriate authorities.
- Most injuries during an earthquake occur from falling objects or structures or downed electrical wires so stay clear if possible. Earthquakes can strike at any time and without warning. They are almost always followed by aftershocks that can be even larger than the initial shock.

Wildland Fires

Before a Wildfire

To prepare for wildfires, you should:

- Mark the entrance to your property with address signs that are visible from the road.
- Keep lawns trimmed, leaves raked, and the roof and rain gutters free from debris such as dead limbs and leaves.
- Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your residence.
- Store flammable materials, liquids, and solvents in metal containers outside your residence at least 30 feet away from structures and wooden fences.
- Create defensible space by trimming trees and brush within 30 feet around your residence. Beyond 30 feet, remove dead wood, debris, and low tree branches.
- Landscape your property with fire-resistant plants and vegetation to prevent fire from spreading quickly. For example, hardwood trees are more fire-resistant than pine, evergreen, or fir trees.
- Make sure water sources, such as hydrants, ponds, swimming pools, and wells are accessible to the fire department.
- Use fire-resistant, protective roofing and materials like stone, brick, and metal to protect your residence. Avoid using wood materials. They offer the least fire protection.
- Cover all exterior vents, attics, and eaves with metal mesh screens no larger than 6 millimeters or ¼ inch to prevent debris from collecting and to help keep sparks out.
- Install multi-pane windows, tempered safety glass, or fireproof shutters to protect large windows from radiant heat.
- Use fire-resistant draperies for added window protection.
- Have chimneys, wood stove, and all home heating systems inspected and cleaned annually by a certified specialist.
- Insulate chimneys and place spark arresters on top. The chimney should be at least 3 feet above the roof.
- Remove branches hanging above and around the chimney.

Follow Local Burning Laws

- Before burning debris in a wooded area, make sure you notify local authorities, obtain a burning permit, and follow these guidelines.
- Use an approved incinerator with a safety lid covering with holes no larger than ¾ inch.
- Create at least a 10-foot clearing around the incinerator before burning debris.
- Have a fire extinguisher or garden hose on hand when burning debris.

During a Wildfire

If a wildfire threatens your home and time permits, take the following precautions:

- Shut off gas at the meter. Only a qualified professional can safely turn the gas back on.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- Turn off propane tanks.

- Place combustible patio furniture inside.
- Connect a garden hose to outside taps. Place lawn sprinklers on the roof and near above-ground fuel tanks. Wet the roof.
- Wet or remove shrubs within 15 feet of your residence.
- Gather fire tools such as a rake, axe, handsaw or chainsaw, bucket, and shovel.
- Back your car into the garage or park it in an open space facing the direction of escape. Shut doors and roll up windows. Leave the key in the ignition and the car doors unlocked. Close garage windows and doors, but leave them unlocked. Disconnect automatic garage door openers.
- Open fireplace damper. Close fireplace screens.
- Close windows, vents, doors, blinds or noncombustible window coverings, and heavy drapers. Remove flammable drapes and curtains.
- Move flammable furniture into the center of the residence away from windows and sliding-glass doors.
- Close all interior doors and windows to prevent drafts.
- Place valuables that will not be damaged by water in a pool or pond.

If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Choose a route away from the fire hazard. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of the fire and smoke.

Power Outages

Home Electrical Circuits

- Familiarize yourself with the location of the electrical breaker panel.
- Turn off breakers for areas of concern.
- If in doubt, shut off the main breaker. Check your house's electrical meter. If it is in your home, there may be a main disconnect breaker next to it. If the meter is on an underground service, it may be in front of your home. But there should be a main breaker where the line enters the home.
- Be sure and show others in the family where the breakers are located in case of an emergency
- In case of basement flooding:
 - Think before stepping in any water.
 - A shock hazard may exist even in an inch of water.
 - If the electrical panel is upstairs, shut off all circuits.
 - If the electrical panel is in the basement, determine whether it can be reached on DRY ground. If not, shut off the main breaker.

Before a Power Outage

- Learn the location of the fuse box or circuit breaker.
- Store candles, flashlights, and extra batteries in convenient places.
- Have food and water supplies on hand.
- Know the location of all camping equipment, stoves, lanterns, and sleeping bags. Make sure the equipment is operational and that you know how to use it. Use camping equipment requiring gasoline, propane, and white fuel. Use Coleman fuel or charcoal briquettes outside only.
- Keep the refrigerator well defrosted.
- Purchase & install approved surge protectors for appliances and electronics.

During the Power Outage

- Unplug all your electronic equipment if you do not have surge protectors. A power surge could ruin appliances when power is restored.
- Turn off all but one light switch.
- Open the refrigerator door only to take food out, close as quickly as possible.
- Use camping equipment outside, six feet away from everything. Use only a fireplace properly installed wood stove or a new style kerosene heater in a safe area with fresh outside air coming into the area.
- Report any downed lines.
- Do not allow children to carry lanterns, candles or fuel.

After the Power Outage

- When power is restored, plug in appliances one by one, waiting a few minutes between each one. This will prevent overloading the system.
- Be patient, Energy may first be restored to police and fire departments and critical infrastructure.
- Examine your frozen food. If it still contains ice crystals it may be refrozen. If meat is off color or has an odd odor, throw it away.

House Fires

Before a Fire

- Make sure home is free of unnecessary combustible materials.
- Do not store flammable liquids inside the home.
- Do not run wires under carpets or rugs.
- Do not store matches or cigarette lighters where children can get them.
- Do not leave cooking unattended.
- If you smoke, do not smoke in bed or in other positions where you may fall asleep. Also have many large ashtrays in the home.
- Know avenues of escape. Always have two ways out of every room.
- Have a place to meet so no one tries to go back into a burning building to look for someone needlessly.
- Have fire extinguishers near the kitchen and the garage.
- Have escape ladders for all windows higher than eight feet off the ground.
- Install a smoke detector in every bedroom, in every hallway outside of a bedroom, and at least one on every level of the house. Test the smoke detector monthly. Change the batteries in the smoke detectors in the fall when you change your clock from daylight savings time.
- Plan and practice a family fire drill on the first of each month. A good plan will have a place to meet, two ways out of every room, and escape ladders.

During a Fire

- If you are outside, stay outside. Do not return for anything. Do not re-enter the building until appropriate authorities have given permission.
- If you are inside, get out. Go to the nearest house or building and call 911. Report the address and type of fire. Listen to and follow instructions. Go to the family meeting place.
- If you are inside and have time, make sure everyone is out.
- If you are in a closed room or office, do not open the door without first feeling it or the door knob. If it is warm or hot, do not open it, but unlock it to help rescue or fire personnel.
- If there is smoke, get under the smoke, no matter how low it is, and get out of the building.
- If you cannot use the door or other means of escape to exit and there is smoke, use clothes, sheets, etc. to stop the smoke from coming in. Go to the window and yell or blow a whistle.
- If you see someone on fire, use a coat or blanket, but not your bare hands to smother the flames. Watch to see that nobody goes back inside to rescue anything or anyone.
- If possible, turn off the gas and electricity from outside the house.
- In a public building, know two ways out. If you hear a fire alarm, immediately exit the building regardless of what you are doing. Follow the established evacuation instructions. Each year more than 4,000 Americans die and more than 25,000 are injured in fires, many of which could be prevented due to non-functioning fire alarms.