

- Choose an out-of-area emergency contact person. It may be easier to text or call long distance if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service. Everyone should memorize emergency contact information and have it in writing or programmed into their cell phones.
- Identify alternative ways to communicate (email, text, call, mail, through a third party, etc).

### Plan what to do if you have to evacuate

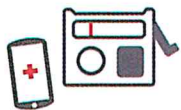
- Decide where you would go and what route you would take to get there. You may choose to go to a hotel or motel, stay with friends or relatives in a safe location or go to an evacuation shelter if necessary.



Download the [Red Cross Emergency App](#) or, go to [redcross.org](#) and search emergency app.

This app provides expert advice on how to prepare and respond to disasters and includes a map with open Red Cross shelters.

- Have at least one alternate location if the preferred location is not accessible.
- Practice evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on your map in case roads are impassable. Ensure all household/family members know the evacuation route, alternate routes, primary and alternate meeting destination.
- Plan ahead for your pets. Keep a phone list of “pet friendly” motels/hotels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation routes.



## Be Informed

### Learn what disasters or emergencies may occur in your area.

These events can range from those affecting only you and your family, like a home fire or medical emergency, to those affecting your entire community, like an earthquake or flood.

- Identify how local authorities will notify you during a disaster and how you will get information, whether through local radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio stations or channels.
- Know the difference between different weather alerts such as “watches” and “warnings” and what actions to take in each.
- Know what actions to take to protect yourself during disasters that may occur in areas where you travel or have moved recently. For example, if you travel to a place where earthquakes are common and you are not familiar with them, make sure you know what to do to protect yourself should one occur.
- When a major disaster occurs, your community can change in an instant. Loved ones may be hurt and emergency response is likely to be delayed. Make sure that at least one member of your household is trained in first aid and CPR and knows how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). This training is useful in many emergency situations.
- Share what you have learned with your family, household and neighbors and encourage them to be informed too.

### Emergency Contact Cards for All Household Members

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Emergency Contact Card | American Red Cross |
| Name: _____            |                    |
| Phone: _____           |                    |
| Home Address: _____    |                    |

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| People to Call or Text in an Emergency | American Red Cross |
| _____                                  |                    |
| _____                                  |                    |
| _____                                  |                    |
| _____                                  |                    |

Get your cards online [here](#) or, go to [redcross.org](#) and search emergency contact.

- Print one card for each family member.
- Write the contact information for each household member, such as work, school and cell phone numbers.
- Ensure contacts for relatives include familiar names (grandma, aunt, etc.) as well as actual names when making cards for children.
- Fold the card so it fits in your pocket, wallet or purse.
- Carry the card with you so it is available in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

## Let Your Family Know You're Safe

Tell your loved ones about the [American Red Cross Safe and Well Website](#) or access through [redcross.org](#) by searching safe and well. This internet-based tool should be integrated into your emergency communications plan. People within a disaster-affected area can register themselves as “safe and well” and concerned family and friends who know the person’s phone number or address can search for messages posted by those who self-register. If you don’t have internet access, call **1-800-RED CROSS** to register yourself and your family.