

MAKE A PLAN

Developing an emergency plan is an effective way to assure that everyone you care for knows how to respond in the event of an emergency. Learn about the hazards and risks in your area, and talk to members of your household about what to do in different scenarios. Consider the following:

- How will you contact one another?
- How will you reunite with your family?
- What will you do in different situations?

Communications Plan

It may be difficult to communicate with family and friends through traditional means during and after an emergency. Use these tips to help you connect with loved ones after an emergency.

- Establish an out-of-town emergency contact.
- Pick two meeting locations outside of the home (one nearby and one outside of the neighborhood.)
- Keep a hard copy of important phone numbers and addresses in your wallet.
- Consider texting instead of calling when phone lines are busy.

Evacuation Plan

When community evacuations are deemed necessary, local officials may notify you via Alert Prince George's. Local media may also provide valuable information regarding the evacuation process. The amount of time you have to evacuate will depend on the nature of the disaster, so be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. You should have enough supplies on hand should you have to leave with limited warning.

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PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION

- Assemble an emergency kit. (Ensure to plan for all members of your family, including pets.)
- Determine where you will go if you must evacuate and communicate the location with everyone in your household.
- Map multiple evacuation routes. During certain types of emergencies, some roads might be impassable.
- Make arrangements ahead of time with relatives and friends you may be able to stay with during an evacuation.
- In some instances, mass care shelters may be opened to provide sheltering to individuals who have been temporarily displaced from their homes. Pay attention to local authorities and news media to see if such a shelter is available. If you have other options for shelter available to you, make use of them instead of a mass care shelter.
- All shelters may not be pet friendly. Prepare a list of kennels, hotels, friends, and family members who may be able to care for your pet in an emergency. If you plan to place your pet in a kennel, make sure that the facility meets all requirements for long term care and has an adequate disaster plan itself.

Shelter-in-Place Plan

There may be times when you are instructed to “shelter-in-place.” The actions you take will differ depending on the situation. When making your family emergency plan, discuss which rooms in your home will be your “safe rooms” for each type of disaster. Different scenarios will require different locations to shelter-in-place. When instructed to shelter-in-place:

- Close all doors and windows.
- Turn off ventilation systems (heating and air conditioning) and close fireplace dampers.

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- Take your disaster supplies and a radio with you. Go to a room with the fewest doors and windows and seal the room. Cut plastic sheeting to fit over windows and vents ahead of time, then secure it with duct tape.
- Place a damp towel at the base of the door.
- Stay in the room and listen for news on the radio or television. Do not come out until you are told it is safe or you are told by authorities to evacuate.
- Consider keeping some basic disaster supplies (flashlight, radio, water, and food) in each of the safe rooms in your home. Or you might plan to take your “go” kit with you to your safe room.

Communications Plan	Shelter-in-Place Plan	Evacuation Plan
Have current phone numbers and email	Use in case of a tornado watch or warning	Identify alternate location(s)
Out-of-town contact	Located away from windows and outside doors	Plan your evacuation routes
Meeting places	Know where your main water and electric shut offs are located	Leave a note on the door or a pre-designated area
Inform family and friends about the plan	Include emergency phone numbers	Inform family and friends about the plan
Practice and update every 6 months	Practice the plan	Practice the plan

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