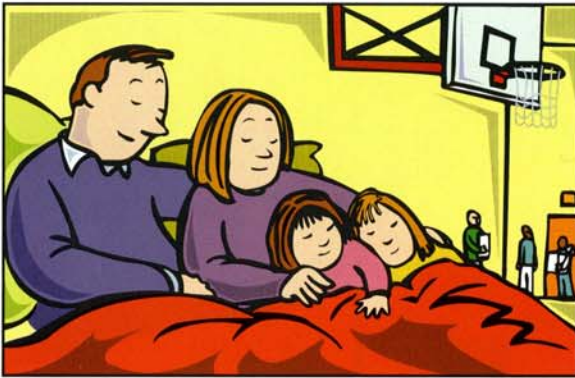


Be Aware



Disasters can happen anywhere and at any time. Because most disasters occur without warning, they can be frightening.

Knowing the types of natural disasters that may occur in your area and being prepared can help lessen the fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany those events.

Knowing what to do before a disaster strikes and how to respond when it does is critical information you can share with your family.

Types of Disasters

Natural Disasters

Natural disasters are disasters caused by a force of nature, such as:

- earthquakes
- floods
- hurricanes
- tornadoes
- wildfires
- severe winter storms

Other Disasters

Other disasters that disrupt your surroundings and change the way you live may be caused by human factors.



- chemical spills
- nuclear power plant incidents
- acts of terrorism
- bridge collapse or other disruption of transportation

Be Prepared!

Have a Family Disaster Plan

Everyone should have a disaster plan ready in case a disaster occurs.

- KEEP IT SIMPLE so everyone can remember the important details. When people know what to do, and practice their plan, everyone is better able to handle emergencies.



- Being prepared can help reduce fear and some of the losses that accompany disaster. Contact your local National Weather Service, American Red Cross chapter, or emergency management agency to find out about the types of natural disasters common in your area.
- Be familiar with evacuation routes. Know several different evacuation routes in case certain roads are blocked or closed.