SAFETY STEPS FOR ANY DISASTER

1. Get alerts to know what to do.

2. Make a plan to protect your people.

3. Pack a Go Bag with things you need.

4. Build a Stay Box for when you can't leave.

5. Help friends and neighbors get ready.
1. GET ALERTS TO KNOW WHAT TO DO

Sign up to get your county alerts. Go to CalAlerts.org. You can also sign up for the MyShake earthquake warning app.

MY LOCAL COUNTY ALERT SYSTEM IS:

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Find a news source you can trust
When a disaster strikes, you need to know what’s happening and get updated information about what you should do and where you should go. There are many ways to get this information.

- Television
- Radio
- Dial 211
- Landline Phone
- Cell Phone
- Email
- Smartphone
- Social Media
- Ham Radio

Find your local radio station for emergency alerts at ListosCalifornia.org.

RADIO STATIONS WHERE I LIVE/WORK:

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EMERGENCY RESOURCE WEBSITES

211CA.org
Dial 211 for evacuation routes, shelters.

CalOES.ca.gov
State guides, alerts & resources.

Response.ca.gov
Real-time wildfire & shelter news.

Ready.gov
Resources to prepare for any disaster.

ListosCalifornia.org
Get more resources to get prepared.
2. **MAKE A PLAN TO PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE: CONNECT & PROTECT**

Think about who you want to connect with during an emergency. These may be family, neighbors, friends or caregivers. Write down their names and contact information. Share copies with everyone on your list.

Also pick one person outside the area where you live who won’t be affected by your local disaster. You and your contacts might be able to check in as safe with that faraway relative or friend, and share where you are.

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

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Try texting if local phone calls can’t get through during a disaster.
2. **MAKE A PLAN TO PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE: EVACUATION ACTION**

If you are not safe at home, work or school due to a disaster, you will need to go to a safe place and meet up with people you care about. Before a disaster, print or get a paper map. Because you may not have cell phone service, it may be helpful getting you to safety from where you are.

**Be ready to go in the safest direction, to the nearest safe place, with little warning.**

1. **Follow the guidance of local authorities.**
   They will share the latest information with news stations and know the best ways to keep you safe. Instructions might come from your fire department, sheriff or police department, or from elected officials, like mayors or supervisors.

   **Listen to the news and sign up for local alerts at CalAlerts.Org.**

2. **Learn different ways to get out of your community fast.**
   In a disaster, the road to safety may not be your usual route. Disasters may close roads and bus routes you usually take. Get familiar with more ways to escape during an emergency. Practice those trips with the people who would go with you. That way, you will know how to stick together in a real emergency.

3. **Be ready to go to your safe place.**
   Have your Go Bag of supplies packed. Have your Connect & Protect plan in place and your Local Resource Directory completed. Reach out to the people you care about, and who care about you. Decide if it is safe, and possible, to get to the home of family or friends. If not, find a public shelter.

   **Dial 211 on your phone to find a public shelter.**
2. MAKE A PLAN TO PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE: LOCAL DISASTER RESOURCE DIRECTORY

As part of your Connect & Protect plan, you should also write down important phone numbers and websites of organizations that can help you in an emergency.

### GOOD CONTACTS IN AN EMERGENCY

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Dial 2-1-1 for information on safe evacuation routes and shelters.
3. PACK A GO BAG WITH THINGS YOU NEED: PACK AHEAD

Most disasters are unexpected and happen fast. You might not have time to shop, or even to pack. Pack up important items for each member of your household now, so you and your family will have what you need later.

TO PACK NOW

Documents
Copies of identification and insurance.
Deeds, titles, and other papers important to you.
Photos of family and pets.

Cash
Small bills $1s & $5s.
Save up a little at a time.

Map
Mark different routes out of your neighborhood on a paper map.

Medications List
List all prescriptions.
Other important medical information.

This Guide
Your completed Connect and Protect list and Local Resource Directory.
Your completed Grab and Go list.
3. **PACK A GO BAG WITH THINGS YOU NEED: GRAB AND GO**

**PACK AS YOU LEAVE**
- Wallet or purse and keys
- Phone and charger
- Medicine
- Mask

**GOOD TO GRAB IF YOU ALREADY OWN**
- Portable radio
- Flashlight
- First aid supplies
- Portable computer

_Write down here what else you should bring for everyone in your household._ Clothes? Toothbrush? Think about needs of babies, older adults, people with medical conditions or disabilities, and pets.

...
4. BUILD A STAY BOX FOR WHEN YOU CAN’T LEAVE: IMPORTANT ITEMS

In some disasters, you may be safer staying at home. You might not have water to drink, to bathe or to flush the toilet. You might have no electricity to keep your food cold, turn on a light or charge your phone.

Add items to a Stay Box, for when you can’t leave home. Prepare for at least 3 days without water or electricity. Save up a little at a time, until you have enough for everyone in your household to get by. Remember any pets. If you already own a flashlight or a portable radio, keep it someplace easy to find.

TO PACK NOW

Water
Save up to 3 gallons per person, for drinking and washing.

Food
Set aside foods that won’t spoil and require no cooking.
You know best what you and your family like to eat.

Trash Bags
Set aside extra plastic bags, with ties, to use in a bucket for a toilet.
4. **BUILD A STAY BOX FOR WHEN YOU CAN’T LEAVE: IMPORTANT ITEMS**

Write down here any important items you use every day that might run out if you are stuck at home for many days. Set aside a little extra in your **Stay Box**, in case you can’t get to a store.

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5. HELP FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS GET READY

Think about who might be the first on the scene to help in your neighborhood during a disaster as you think about your answers to these questions:

WHO IS HOME IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD DURING THE DAY?

WHO IS AT HOME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU DURING THE DAY?

WHAT ABOUT AT NIGHT? ON A WEEKEND?

WHO IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MIGHT NEED HELP?

Thinking through these things will help you to prepare and to start conversations with your neighbors.

Discuss these same questions with your neighbors, talk with them about what help they might need, and be willing to help where you can.
STEP-BY-STEP SAFETY CALENDAR

You don’t need to follow this calendar exactly. Just take a few steps each week, at your own pace. You will enjoy peace of mind knowing you are ready if a disaster strikes.

WEEK 1

Pack a Go Bag for each person in your household.

Sign up for local emergency alerts at CalAlerts.org.

WEEK 2

Create your Connect & Protect plan for family, neighbors, caregivers.

Talk about your plans with people on your list.

WEEK 3

Learn different evacuation routes and mark them on a map.

Practice your Evacuation Action plan.

WEEK 4

Start packing a Stay Box to be safe and comfortable at home.

Do a little at a time, until you feel ready.
**BASIC TIPS FOR ANY**

**Carry Identification:** Families may be apart when disaster strikes. People and pets get separated.

- Everyone you care for should carry identification.
- Put written identification in children’s school bags.
- Consider a medical alert tag or bracelet.
- Get pets updated tags and microchips.
- Photos of families and pets can help you reunite.

**Build a Support Network:** Have a backup plan in case of emergency. Think about who you can rely on.

- Talk with your neighbors about their needs, and yours.
- Discuss disaster plans with caregivers.
- Ask schools about plans to reunite parents and children.
- Plan ahead for skilled helpers to assist with evacuations.
- Share keys with trusted friends to rescue your pets.
**DISASTER**

**Have Extra Medications and Power Supply:**
Many people can’t go three days without medications. Some need electricity to power equipment and devices.

- Carry extra medicine when you leave home.
- Photo (or carry) list of doctors and prescriptions.
- Ask pharmacy to renew 30-day prescription at 28 days.
- Save extra doses in your Go Bag.
- Plan to keep medicine cold and charge equipment/devices.

**Reduce Stress:** Lessen physical and mental stress by planning ahead.

- Dial 211 to find shelters for specific needs.
- Label equipment before evacuation.
- Sign up for alerts from your power company about power shutoffs.
- Pack specialty medical and communication supplies.
- Plan to comfort those with Alzheimer’s or mental illness.
TIPS FOR A VARIETY

Disasters are challenging for everyone. Each of us has different needs in preparing for a disaster. You, or someone you care about, can benefit from planning ahead. Think now about ways to make the experience safe and comfortable for all.

GET READY

Pregnant Women
Ask your doctor how to get care or deliver during a disaster.
Plan ahead to avoid bad air, toxic water and unsafe food.
Tell staff at a shelter that you are pregnant.

Parents of Infants
If you use formula, set aside plenty of clean water.
Get or make a body sling to walk far with the baby.
Know the safety plan of your child’s caregiver.

Caregivers
Create an emergency plan with your care recipient.
Build a network of support beyond yourself.
Help your care recipient pack needed supplies.
OF CIRCUMSTANCES

Talk with people you trust – at health clinics, schools, faith communities, health support groups, assisted living facilities, social service agencies, independent living centers. Here are some safety tips that might help.

GET READY

People with Pets

Get your pet an ID tag and microchip if possible.

Pack food, water, medicine and proof of immunization.

Dial 211 to ask which public shelters accept animals.

Older Adults

Carry family/caregiver contact information in your wallet.

Post family and emergency numbers near your phones.

Learn about your retirement community’s emergency plans.

Rural Communities

Share alerts through phone trees and ham radio networks.

Meet with neighbors to discuss collaboration.

Plan ahead for evacuating large animals.
TIPS FOR A VARIETY

PLAN AHEAD

People with Developmental Disabilities
Identify trusted allies to rely on in a disaster.
Make a plan together with this support network.
Practice your plan to help you feel safe.

People with Speech/Communication Disabilities
Carry an instruction card on how to communicate with you.
Carry communication devices, phrase cards or picture boards.
Know how to replace your assistive device if damaged/lost.

People with Mobility and Other Physical Disabilities
Plan ahead with trusted allies for transportation.
Make a plan for damaged ramps/rails.
Evacuate as soon as possible to give you extra time to get out safely.
**OF CIRCUMSTANCES**

**PLAN AHEAD**

**Transportation Challenged**
Arrange carpooling if you must evacuate.
Ask if public transit may be free after a natural disaster.
Learn if ride share services will offer free rides to shelter.

**People with Limited English**
Find trusted community sources to talk to about safety options.
Ask bilingual youth to share safety steps with you.
Research which media you follow provide emergency alerts.

**New Californians**
Learn emergency system basics, like dialing 211.
Ask your community how disasters here are different.
Find trusted sources in emergencies beyond the government.
SAFETY TIPS: WILDFIRE

BEFORE

- Red Flag warning means prepare NOW.
- Plan for no electricity. Don’t use candles.
- Get bandana or mask to protect lungs.

- Check that your water hose is working.
- Clean gutters. Remove brush near home.

DURING

- Don’t “wait and see”. Leave when told!
- Leave smoky areas quickly.
- Close all doors and windows. Turn off air conditioner.

- Open or remove curtains, shades or blinds.
- Prepare pets for evacuation.
SAFETY TIPS: FLOOD

BEFORE

- Keep storm pipes and drains clear.
- Move valuable items to higher floors.
- Get plastic tarps, sandbags to keep out water.
- Keep car gas tank at least half full.
- Learn best escape routes to higher ground.

DURING

- Don’t “wait and see”. Leave when told!
- Never walk through moving water.
- Never drive into flooded areas.
- Watch for mudslides after wildfire.
- Watch for tsunami on coast after earthquake.
SAFETY TIPS: EARTHQUAKE

BEFORE

- Secure tall furniture to walls.
- Hang nothing heavy above a bed, sofa or chair.
- Get free MyShake app for earthquake warnings.

- Practice earthquake safety drills.
- Learn how to turn off gas, electricity and water.

DURING

- Don’t rush outside. Get under a table or desk.
- Stay in bed and cover head with a pillow.
- Outside, move away from anything that could fall.

- Pull over car and stop away from buildings, trees.
- Be ready for aftershocks.
SAFETY TIPS: POWER SHUTOFF

BEFORE

- Prepare flashlights and lanterns – no candles.
- Keep phone batteries fully charged.
- Keep car gas tank at least half full.
- Buy food that won’t spoil and doesn’t need cooking.
- Buy ice to keep food or medicines in coolers.

DURING

- Unplug appliances/electronics to prevent damage.
- Leave one light plugged in.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer closed.
- Use generators, camp stoves and grills outdoors.
- Don’t use your gas stove for heat.