

Home Fire

Preparedness Checklist

Home fires are the most common type of emergency in the United States, and can cause deaths, injuries and property loss within minutes of breaking out. Home fires occur every day across the country but we can take action to prepare. Prepare now to protect yourself, your loved ones and your home.



Prevent Home Fires

You can prevent home fires by following basic safety tips.



Cooking Safety

Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.

- Stay in the kitchen and closely monitor your meal anytime you are cooking. **Keep an eye on what you fry!**
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stove.
- Install and learn how to use a fire extinguisher. Contact your local fire department for training.
- If you have a small cooking fire:
 - On a stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
 - For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the oven door closed.
 - **If in doubt, just get out!** If flames spread to objects beyond the stove or oven, evacuate immediately. When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



Heating Safety

Use caution around heating equipment such as space heaters and fireplaces. Keep anything that could catch fire at least **3 feet from the heat**.



Electrical Safety

Use caution with electrical equipment.

- Always plug appliances directly into wall outlets. Extension cords are for short-term use.
- Check power cords. Make sure they are not across doorways or under carpets where they might get pinched or wear out.
- Have all electrical work done by a certified electrician.



Child Safety

Children "playing" with fire is dangerous. Each year these types of fires cause many preventable injuries and deaths.

- Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight.
- Teach young children to never touch matches or lighters.



Smoking Safety

Smoking is a leading cause of home fire deaths.

- If you smoke, do so outside. Make sure to extinguish smoking materials in a deep and sturdy ashtray.
- Never smoke or allow anyone to smoke where medical oxygen is used.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Use e-cigarettes with caution. Serious fires and injuries can occur when e-cigarettes are being used, charged or transported.



Candle Safety

Avoid using candles because of the fire risk. Use battery-powered lights and flashlights instead.

- If you must use a candle, use extreme caution and never leave it unattended.

Install and maintain smoke alarms



Working smoke alarms save lives and can cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.

- Be sure that you install smoke alarms in your home and that you maintain and test them regularly.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.

- Make sure everyone in your home knows the sound of a smoke alarm and what to do if it goes off.
- Test ALL smoke alarms at least once a month by pressing the test button.

More About Smoke Alarms

- Smoke alarms with 10-year batteries are good for up to 10 years.
- 9-volt smoke alarms should have their batteries replaced at least once a year.
- Hardwired smoke alarms often have a backup battery in case your power goes out. Be sure to replace the 9-volt battery if the alarm begins to chirp.
- Most smoke alarms, regardless of power source, are effective for 10 years. Replace all smoke alarms once they reach this age.
- If your alarm is chirping, it means the battery is low.

- 10-Year Battery – Replace the entire smoke alarm.
- 9 Volt Battery – Replace the battery and check the date of alarm manufacture. Replace if older than 10 years.
- Hardwired – Replace the backup battery and check the date of alarm manufacture. Replace if older than 10 years.
- Consider installing interconnected smoke alarms. When one sounds, they all sound.
- NEVER disable a smoke alarm by removing batteries or removing from the wall or ceiling, even temporarily. It's easy to forget about the alarm and leaves your family at risk.
- People who are deaf or hard of hearing are at risk because they may not be able to hear a standard smoke alarm. There are devices available to alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing, including bed shaker alarms and strobe light smoke alarms.

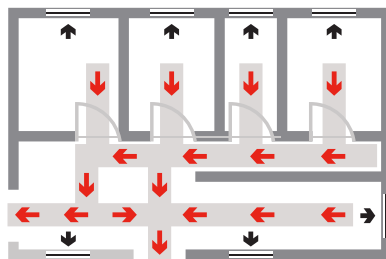
Practice Your 2-Minute Home Fire Escape Plan



Make and practice a home fire escape plan with your household so that everyone knows what to do and can escape in less than two minutes:

- Find two paths to the outside from every room. The first path will often be a doorway. The second path may be a window or a second doorway. You need two paths in case your first path is blocked by smoke or flames.
- Make sure your escape paths are clear and not blocked by clutter, furniture or equipment.
- Choose a safe outside meeting place where everyone will go after they have escaped the fire so that you know everyone is safe.
- Account for all those who may need extra assistance in your planning, including infants, small children, older adults and individuals with a disability, access or functional needs. Make sure that someone is assigned to help them, if needed, and that everyone can use the escape routes.

← First Escape Path
 ← Second Escape Path



Practice your escape plan twice a year with your entire household. Remind everyone:

- If a fire starts in your home, you may have less than two minutes to escape safely.
- **Get out and stay out!** Leave everything behind and get out as quickly as you can. **NEVER** go back into a burning building.
- If smoke or fire blocks one of your ways out, use another way out. If you must go through smoke, **get low and go** under the smoke to escape.
- Everyone in your household should plan to **meet at your designated outside meeting place.**
- **Call 911 from a safe place outside your home.**

If windows have security bars, make sure they have a quick release. Make sure everyone knows how to use them. Consider escape ladders for second floor sleeping areas.



Multi-Family Homes/High-Rise Buildings:

- If there is an outside fire escape, know how to use it in an emergency.
- Know your building's escape plan. Identify the fire doors and fire-safe stairways on your floor. Practice by counting the number of doors between your apartment and the fire exits. This can help you escape in the dark by feeling your way along the hallway wall.
- Never take the elevator during a fire.

Prepare so you can protect.

For more information, visit redcross.org/prepare

Download the Emergency App



Preparedness Essentials

Preparedness Checklist

Disasters disrupt our lives. Some disasters, like floods and home fires, can occur anywhere. Other disasters, like wildfires and hurricanes, are more common in certain areas. Climate change is causing more frequent and extreme weather events. This increases our risk of death, injury, property loss and disruption. But we can take action to prepare. Prepare now to protect yourself, your loved ones and your home.



Be Prepared

Being prepared means that you:

- Know what hazards, like tornadoes or floods, are likely to happen in your community.
- Have plans in place so that you and your loved ones know how to respond.
- Have a way to monitor emergency conditions in your area.
- Have emergency skills, such as CPR and first aid.
- Have emergency supplies, like food, water and medicine, so that you can meet your basic needs.

- Have a battery-powered radio.
- Plan to monitor weather conditions near you.



Learn Emergency Skills

Prepare now so that you have critical skills and can meet your basic needs.

- Learn first aid and CPR.
- Utilities may be offline. Be ready to live without power, gas and water. Plan for your needs, including cell phones and medical equipment. Talk to your doctor. Plan for backup power.



Understand Your Risks

Some hazards, such as floods and home fires, can happen anywhere. Others, including earthquakes and hurricanes, are more common in certain areas. Reach out to your state or local office of emergency management agency to learn more about your local risks.



Gather Emergency Supplies

Gather food, water and medicine. Organize supplies into a Go-Kit and a Stay-at-Home Kit.

- Go-Kit: at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)
- Stay-at-Home Kit: at least two weeks of supplies. Stores and pharmacies might be closed.
- Have a 1-month supply of medication in a child-proof container and medical supplies or equipment.



Plan to Stay Connected

In a disaster, it is important to stay connected and informed.

- Sign up for free emergency alerts from your local government.
- Have a backup battery or a way to charge your cell phone.



Gather Emergency Supplies

- Keep personal, financial and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up). Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.
- Customize your kits to meet your household's needs and the season.

Basic supplies include:

- Water: 1 gallon per person, per day
- Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items
- Can opener
- Medications and medical items
- Flashlight or battery-powered lanterns
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Multi-purpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Hats, gloves, boots, coats, etc. (cold weather)
- Sun hats, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray, etc. (warm weather)
- Change of clothes
- Map(s) of the area
- Keep personal, financial and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up).



Make Plans to Stay Safe

Stay or go? Depending on the emergency, you may need to stay where you are or evacuate to stay safe.

If you need to go somewhere else, think through these questions:

- Where will I go?
- How will I get there?
- Where will I stay?
- What will I bring with me?



Plan to Reconnect With Loved Ones

- If separated, or if the phone or internet is down, have a plan to communicate with loved ones.
- Complete a contact card for each member of your household. Ensure that they carry it with them.
- Text is best. A text message may go through when a phone call will not.
- Designate an out-of-town contact who can help your household reconnect. It may be easier to reach people outside the affected area.
- Agree to meet in a specific place to help you reconnect with loved ones when it is safe.
 - If you need to leave your home, choose a specific location nearby.
 - If you need to leave your community, choose a specific location outside your community.



Plan to Take Care of Yourself

- It's normal to have bad feelings, stress or anxiety after a disaster or other emergency.
- Plan to eat healthy food and get enough sleep to help you deal with stress.
- Know that you can contact the Disaster Distress Helpline for free if you need to talk to someone. Call or text **1-800-985-5990**.

Prepare so you can protect.

| For more information, visit redcross.org/prepare

| Download the Emergency App



Be Red Cross Ready

Prepare so you can protect.







**American
Red Cross**

Emergency Contact Card

Directions:

1. Print out a card for every member of your household.
2. Fill in all information.
3. Carry card to reference in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

Side 2 of the Emergency Contact Card is displayed below.

X Cut along dotted lines. X	<p>Emergency Contact Card</p> <p> American Red Cross</p> <p>Cardholder information:</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Home address: _____</p> <p>Healthcare provider: _____</p> <p>Fold here _____ Fold here</p> <p>In an emergency, call 911 or:</p> <p>Local Police: _____</p> <p>Local Fire Department: _____</p> <p>Poison Control: (800) 222-1222</p> <p>For more information, please visit redcross.org/prepare</p> <p>Be Red Cross Ready Prepare so you can protect.</p>	<p>Emergency Contact Card</p> <p> American Red Cross</p> <p>Cardholder information:</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Home address: _____</p> <p>Healthcare provider: _____</p> <p>Fold here _____ Fold here</p> <p>In an emergency, call 911 or:</p> <p>Local Police: _____</p> <p>Local Fire Department: _____</p> <p>Poison Control: (800) 222-1222</p> <p>For more information, please visit redcross.org/prepare</p> <p>Be Red Cross Ready Prepare so you can protect.</p>	X Cut along dotted lines. X
	<p>Emergency Contact Card</p> <p> American Red Cross</p> <p>Cardholder information:</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Home address: _____</p> <p>Healthcare provider: _____</p> <p>Fold here _____ Fold here</p> <p>In an emergency, call 911 or:</p> <p>Local Police: _____</p> <p>Local Fire Department: _____</p> <p>Poison Control: (800) 222-1222</p> <p>For more information, please visit redcross.org/prepare</p> <p>Be Red Cross Ready Prepare so you can protect.</p>	<p>Emergency Contact Card</p> <p> American Red Cross</p> <p>Cardholder information:</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Home address: _____</p> <p>Healthcare provider: _____</p> <p>Fold here _____ Fold here</p> <p>In an emergency, call 911 or:</p> <p>Local Police: _____</p> <p>Local Fire Department: _____</p> <p>Poison Control: (800) 222-1222</p> <p>For more information, please visit redcross.org/prepare</p> <p>Be Red Cross Ready Prepare so you can protect.</p>	







Emergency Contact Card

Directions:

1. Print out a card for every member of your household.
2. Fill in all information.
3. Carry card to reference in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

Side 2 of the Emergency Contact Card is displayed below.

<p>Emergency Contact Card  American Red Cross</p> <p>Emergency Contacts</p> <p>Local Contacts: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Fold here</p> <p>Out-of-Area Contacts: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Meeting Place in Neighborhood: _____</p> <p>Meeting Place Outside of Neighborhood: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>253901-07 3/20</p>	<p>Emergency Contact Card  American Red Cross</p> <p>Emergency Contacts</p> <p>Local Contacts: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Fold here</p> <p>Out-of-Area Contacts: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Meeting Place in Neighborhood: _____</p> <p>Meeting Place Outside of Neighborhood: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>253901-07 3/20</p>
<p>Emergency Contact Card  American Red Cross</p> <p>Emergency Contacts</p> <p>Local Contacts: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Fold here</p> <p>Out-of-Area Contacts: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Meeting Place in Neighborhood: _____</p> <p>Meeting Place Outside of Neighborhood: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>253901-07 3/20</p>	<p>Emergency Contact Card  American Red Cross</p> <p>Emergency Contacts</p> <p>Local Contacts: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Fold here</p> <p>Out-of-Area Contacts: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Meeting Place in Neighborhood: _____</p> <p>Meeting Place Outside of Neighborhood: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>253901-07 3/20</p>

Home Fire Escape Plan

Use the graph to draw your home's floor plan and plot your home fire escape routes.

Tips for creating your home fire escape plan and practicing your 2-minute drill:

- Everyone in your household should know two ways to escape from each room in your home.
- Smoke is dangerous. Get low and go!
- Decide where to meet once you get outside: _____
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets or things.
- If a fire starts, you may have less than **two minutes** to get to safety. So time your fire drills and find out: what's your escape time? _____



If a fire starts in your home, get out to safety, then dial 911.

You can keep your family safe with 2 simple steps.



Practice your 2-minute drill.



Test your smoke alarms monthly.



FEMA



MAKE SAFE HAPPEN

Nationwide



PrepareSoCal



Weeks to prepare

Week 1				
Tour your home to gather items you already have. Place all items in a waterproof bag or container before packing in kit. Check off each item as you go.				
<input type="checkbox"/> A sturdy, easy-to carry container to hold items (backpack, duffle bag or large tote) <input type="checkbox"/> A set of clothes and sturdy shoes for each family member <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of important papers (birth certificates, ID, insurance policies, passports, home lease/deed, etc.)				
<input type="checkbox"/> A 3 day supply of your medications <input type="checkbox"/> A current list of family phone numbers and e-mails including someone who can be reached if local lines are down. <input type="checkbox"/> A map (mark an evacuation route from your local area) <input type="checkbox"/> Extra cash in small bills <input type="checkbox"/> Spare keys for house and car <input type="checkbox"/> Spare glasses or contacts and solution <input type="checkbox"/> Books or toys				
Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water <input type="checkbox"/> 1 jar of peanut butter <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box of crackers <input type="checkbox"/> 2 boxes of energy bars <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cans meat/fish <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cans fruits/veggies <input type="checkbox"/> Manual Can opener <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bottle juice <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pkg hand sanitizer <input type="checkbox"/> 1 antibacterial soap <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water <input type="checkbox"/> 1 liquid dish soap <input type="checkbox"/> 2 rolls toilet paper <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box facial tissue <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit & guide <input type="checkbox"/> Latex gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Tweezers <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*
Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11
<input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer <input type="checkbox"/> Allergy/pain reliever in a childproof container <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water <input type="checkbox"/> Feminine supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Comb & brush <input type="checkbox"/> 1 potted meat <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> Towels & washcloths <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrushes & paste <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo, bar soap <input type="checkbox"/> Deoderant <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> Umbrella/slicker <input type="checkbox"/> Scarf <input type="checkbox"/> Winter gloves <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bottle juice <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pkg energy snacks <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency blanket <input type="checkbox"/> Matches <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*
Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16
<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton rope <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bottle juice <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water <input type="checkbox"/> Screwdriver <input type="checkbox"/> Utility knife <input type="checkbox"/> Pliers <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 cans fruit/veggies <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pkg eating utensils <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pkg plastic cups <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels/napkins <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet food & dishes <input type="checkbox"/> Extra water <input type="checkbox"/> Leash <input type="checkbox"/> Litter pan/litter <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cans meat/fish <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone & charger <input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruits & nuts <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*
Week 17	Week 18	Week 19	Week 20	Week 21
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water <input type="checkbox"/> Extra flashlight <input type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries for radio & flashlight <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bottle juice <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water <input type="checkbox"/> Work gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Dust mask <input type="checkbox"/> Chlorine bleach <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage bags & ties <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic sheeting <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bucket & lid <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfectant <input type="checkbox"/> Notepad & pen <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 boxes dry cereal <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box graham crackers <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pkg energy snacks <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*	<input type="checkbox"/> Comfort foods <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors <input type="checkbox"/> Extra blankets <input type="checkbox"/> Small pillows <input type="checkbox"/> Water container <input type="checkbox"/> Weather radio \$1.75*

*Save \$1.75 a week and purchase your weather radio at the end of 21 weeks.

Customize your kit for your family

For baby: baby food, formula, bottles, diapers, extra water for formula and washing bottles

For seniors: oxygen, walker, adult diapers, hearing aid with extra batteries and extra medications

For pets: carrier, medicines, inoculation and health records, ID tags, photo of you with your pet(s)

For children: toys, travel games, extra batteries, stuffed animal, cards, crayons, paper, books

Daylight Savings Time: When you change your clocks, check your kit! Replace expired food, medicine and batteries. Check clothing for fit and seasons. Also change smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries.

For more preparedness tips, visit redcross.org

In a home fire,
can your family
safely escape
in just 2
minutes?



Home fires claim seven lives every day, but together we can help change that.

The American Red Cross is offering **free** home fire safety information and smoke alarm installations in your community!

To register for an appointment, see link and phone number at the bottom of this flyer. We will contact you when we have a team ready to install in your area. Our install teams will follow COVID-19 guidelines and will wear a mask on request.

Join our national movement and pledge to keep your family safe against home fires.

To request a free smoke alarm appointment, visit our website at SoundTheAlarm.org/SoCal or call 714-481-5334



American Red Cross
Southern California Region



Prepare to protect your loved ones with the Emergency app

As extreme weather events increase,
it's more important than ever to be prepared.

Download the Emergency app today!

Emergency app features

- **Before:** Short guides help you prepare for 13 hazards. Make customized plans and play games to practice critical preparedness skills.
- **During:** National Weather Service alerts are shown in the app and can be sent to your phone. Real-time weather maps and hurricane tracking keep you updated on storms.
- **After:** If a disaster impacts your location, you can easily find open Red Cross shelters and services available near you.

The Emergency app is free, available in English and Spanish, and designed with accessibility in mind.



Download the free Emergency app today. Available in English and Spanish. Search "American Red Cross" in your app store or text: "GETEMERGENCY" to 90999.

Available in the App Store® or Google Play™.

