

# NYC READINESS CHALLENGE

The NYC Readiness Challenge highlights what could happen in the event of an emergency in New York City and steps you can take to prepare for a disaster.

## STAY INFORMED WITH NOTIFY NYC

How you receive information changes in a disaster

### STAY INFORMED WITH NOTIFY NYC

Notify NYC is New York City's official source for emergency information. Notify NYC is free and allows subscribers to receive updates by email, text message, phone or Twitter about incidents including:

- Road closures
- Subway delays
- Fires
- Weather advisories
- Power outages
- Unscheduled parking rule suspensions
- Public school closures

You can even specify the ZIP codes that interest you most so you can stay informed about emergencies affecting your workplace, your home neighborhood, your child's school, or a family member's home.

### COMPUTER/EMAIL/TELEVISION/RADIO

If the power is out, it is unlikely your internet connection or TV will work. Make sure to check your mobile device for emails or text messages, or turn on your battery-operated AM/FM radio for the latest news.

### SIGN UP FOR NOTIFY NYC

- Register online for Notify NYC:  
<http://www.nyc.gov/notifynyc>
- Follow on Twitter:  
<http://twitter.com/NotifyNYC>  
<http://twitter.com/NYCOEM>

### RESOURCES

- FAQ about Notify NYC  
<https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/notifynyc/FAQ.aspx>

## GETTING IN TOUCH WITH LOVED ONES

Local phone lines can be congested during a disaster, but alternative forms of communication may still be available.

### TEXT OR TWEET

Alternative forms of communication are usually best as local phone lines may be jammed. Text, Twitter or email may be good ways to get a hold of your loved ones.

### OUT-OF-STATE CONTACT

Designate an out-of-state contact that can relay information. Out-of-state calls are usually less jammed, and your out-of-state contact can focus on contacting loved ones.

### WRITE DOWN PHONE NUMBERS

If your mobile phone battery runs out or cell service is not working, you'll want to have phone numbers written down.

### RESOURCES

- Emergency Reference Card  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/downloads/pdf/emergency\\_reference\\_card.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/downloads/pdf/emergency_reference_card.pdf)
- Ready New York: Preparing for Emergencies in New York City  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/household\\_guide.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/household_guide.shtml)

## PACK A GO BAG

Have enough supplies to last three days in case you need to leave your home following an emergency.

### WHAT IS A GO BAG?

Every household member should assemble a Go Bag - a collection of items you can use in the event of an evacuation. Each Go Bag should be sturdy, lightweight and portable, such as a backpack. A Go Bag should be easily accessible and ready to go any time.

### WHAT GOES IN A GO BAG

*Suggested items include:*

- Copies of your important documents in a waterproof and portable container (insurance cards, birth certificates, deeds, photo IDs, etc.)
- Extra sets of car and house keys
- Copies of credit and ATM cards and cash
- Bottled water and non-perishable food, like energy or granola bars

- Flashlight
- Battery-operated AM/FM radio and
- Extra batteries
- List of the medications members of your household take and their dosages, or copies of all your prescription slips, with doctors' names and phone numbers
- First-aid kit
- Lightweight rain-gear and Mylar blanket
- Contact and meeting place information for your household, and small regional map
- Child care, pet, or other special items

## WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT?

Keep enough supplies in your home to survive on your own, or shelter in place, for at least three days. If possible, keep these materials in an easily accessible, separate container or special cupboard. You should indicate to your household members that these supplies are for emergencies only. Check expiration dates of food and update your kits when you change your clock during daylight-saving times.

## WHAT GOES IN AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

*Suggested items include:*

- One gallon of drinking water per person per day
- Non-perishable, ready-to-eat canned foods and manual can opener
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight
- Battery-operated AM/FM radio and
- Extra batteries
- Whistle
- Iodine tablets or one quart of unscented bleach (for disinfecting water ONLY if directed to do so by health officials) and eyedropper (for adding bleach to water)
- Personal hygiene items: soap, feminine hygiene products, toothbrush and toothpaste, etc.
- Phone that does not rely on electricity
- Child care supplies or other special care items

## RESOURCES

- Ready New York: Preparing for Emergencies in New York City  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/household\\_guide.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/household_guide.shtml)

## KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE

Develop and practice a disaster plan with your household members to prepare for what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate in an emergency.

### MEETING PLACE

Decide where your household will reunite after a disaster. Identify two places to meet: one near your home and another outside your immediate neighborhood, such as a library, fire house, or a friend's home.

### GO BAG

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*See what goes in a Go Bag on Page 2.*

### RESOURCES

- Ready New York: Preparing for Emergencies in New York City  
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- Let's Get Ready, New York! (Kids Guide)  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/kids\\_guide.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/kids_guide.shtml)

## KEEPING YOUR ANIMALS SAFE

Preparing for your pets is just as important as preparing for yourself.

### DESIGNATE A FRIEND

Identify a trusted friend, neighbor, or dog-walker to care for your pet in your absence. This person should have a set of your house keys, be familiar with your home and pet, know your emergency plan, and have your contact information.

### PET GO BAG

Create a Go Bag for your pet or service animal.

*This should include:*

- A current color photograph of you and your pet together (in case you are separated)
- Copies of medical records that indicate dates of vaccinations and a list of medications your pet takes and why
- Proof of identification and ownership, including copies of registration information, adoption papers, proof of purchase, and microchip information
- Physical description of your pet, including his/her species, breed, age, sex, color, distinguishing

traits, and any other vital information about characteristics and behavior

- Animal first-aid kit, including flea and tick treatment and other items recommended by your veterinarian
- Food, water, and dishes for at least three days
- Collapsible cage or carrier
- Muzzle and leash
- Cotton sheet to place over the carrier to help keep your pet calm
- Comforting toys or treats
- Litter, litter pan, and scoop
- Plastic bags for clean-up

## CARRIER OR LEASH

Keep your pet's collar/harness, leash, or carrier in a place where it can be easily found.

## FOOD AND WATER

Have extra food and water stored in a portable container. If you use wet food, make sure you have pop-up cans or a can opener on hand. Rotate food and water items every six months to avoid expiration.

## PET RESOURCES

- Ready New York for Pets  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/pets\\_guide.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/pets_guide.shtml)

## PREPARING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have special needs, it is important to have a support network to help you in an emergency.

## EMERGENCY SUPPORT NETWORK

Ask at least two people to be in your network—family members, friends, neighbors, caregivers, coworkers, or members of community groups.

*Your emergency support network should:*

- Stay in contact during an emergency
- Keep spare sets of your keys
- Know where to find your emergency supplies.
- Know how to operate your equipment or help move you in an emergency.

## GO BAG (WITH SPECIAL ITEMS)

*In addition to the standard Go Bag items, you may need these special care items:*

- Aerosol tire repair kits and/or tire inflator to repair flat wheelchair or scooter tires
- Back-up medical equipment (e.g., glasses, batteries)
- Contact information for your household and members of your support network
- Notepad and pen

## MEDICAL INFORMATION/PRESCRIPTIONS

If you take medications, make sure to bring them with you. Have extra copies of your prescriptions in case you need refills.

## SIGN UP FOR NOTIFY NYC

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- Follow on Twitter  
<https://twitter.com/NotifyNYC>:  
<https://twitter.com/NYCOEM>

## RESOURCES

- Ready New York: My Emergency Plan  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/myemergencyplan\\_guide.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/ready/myemergencyplan_guide.shtml)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & INFORMATION

### NOTIFY NYC

Notify NYC is the City of New York's official source for information about emergency events and important City services.

- Register online:  
<http://nyc.gov/notifynyc>
- Follow Notify NYC on Twitter:  
<https://twitter.com/NotifyNYC>

### NYC OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Learn how to get involved and prepare for emergencies in New York City:  
<http://www.nyc.gov/oem>  
<http://youtube.com/nycoem>

- Follow the NYC Office of Emergency Management on Facebook:  
<https://facebook.com/NYCemergencymanagement>
- Follow the NYC Office of Emergency Management on Twitter:  
<https://twitter.com/@nycoem>

## READY NEW YORK

The Ready New York campaign encourages New Yorkers to be ready for all types of emergencies. Develop a disaster plan and decide where you and your family will meet in the event of an emergency. Gather emergency supplies – some to keep in your home and others to keep in backpacks in case you must leave your home in a hurry. Finally, learn how to keep informed about the hazards you may face in New York City.

<http://www.nyc.gov/readyny>