MAKE A HOUSEHOLD DISASTER PLAN

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.

- Decide where your household members will reunite after a disaster. Identify two places to meet: one near your home and another outside your immediate neighborhood.
- Practice using all possible exit routes from your home and neighborhood.
- Designate an out-of-area friend or relative who household members can call if separated during a disaster. If New York City phone lines are busy, long-distance calls may be easier to make. This out-of-area contact can help you communicate with others.
- Plan for everybody’s needs, especially seniors, non-English speakers, people with disabilities, access, and functional needs, children, and pets.
- Buy the right insurance. If you rent your home, renter’s insurance will insure the items inside your apartment. If you are a homeowner, make sure your home is properly insured – flood and wind damage are not covered in a basic homeowner’s policy.

ASSEMBLE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Keep enough supplies in your home to survive for up to seven days. Store these materials in an easily accessible container or cupboard, and update them twice a year at daylight saving times. Suggested items include:

- One gallon of drinking water per person per day
- Nonperishable, ready-to-eat canned foods and manual can opener
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight
- Battery-operated AM/FM radio, and extra batteries, or a wind-up radio that does not require batteries
- Glow sticks
- Whistle or bell

EMERGENCY REFERENCE CARD

Use this card to record details of your personal disaster plan. Every member of your household should have one.

- Name:
- Local Meeting Place:
- Meeting Place Outside of Your Neighborhood:
- Work/School/Other Evacuation Locations:
- Work/School/Other Contact:
- Out-of-Area Contact:
- Homeowner’s/Renter’s Insurance:
- Doctor Names & Numbers:
PACK A GO BAG
Every household member should put together a Go Bag — a collection of items you would want if you have to leave in a hurry. Each Go Bag should be sturdy and easy to carry, such as a backpack. Suggested items include:

- Copies of your important documents in a waterproof and portable container (insurance cards, birth certificates, deeds, photo IDs, etc.)
- Cash and copies of credit and ATM cards
- Bottled water and nonperishable food, such as granola bars
- Flashlight
- Battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries
- List of the medications, why you take them, and their dosages, and doctors’ names and phone numbers
- First-aid kit
- Toiletries
- Child care, pet care, and other special items
- Lightweight raingear and Mylar blanket
- Contact and meeting place information for your household, and a small regional map

THIS GUIDE IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE LANGUAGES BELOW.

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