

January 2025 Resolve to Be Ready

Resolve to Be Ready Toolkit

This year resolve to be ready! The **Resolve to be Ready Toolkit** offers practical emergency preparedness tips and preparedness actions individuals, families and businesses can take to be ready for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. These messages can be shared in newsletters and on your social media channels directly as written or customized for your audiences.

This toolkit contains preparedness information, key messages, social media graphics and other resources to launch your community's own [Resolve to be Ready Social Media Toolkit | Ready.gov](#) campaign.

FEMA Region 7 Points of Contact

External Affairs Director Disability Integration/Private Sector	Michael Cappannari	Michael.cappannari@fema.dhs.gov 816-810-5382
Public Affairs/Digital Communications	Barb Sturner	Barb.sturner@fema.dhs.gov 816-783-3347
Congressional Affairs Liaison	Hannah Dickel	Hannah.dickel@fema.dhs.gov 202-674-5734
Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist	Sarah Albee	Sarah.albee@fema.dhs.gov 202-716-1210
Community Preparedness Officer	Ryan Lowry-Lee	Ryan.lowrylee@fema.dhs.gov 202-549-9415
Regional Preparedness Liaison	Jennifer Tarwater	fema-r7-community- preparedness@fema.dhs.gov
Tribal Affairs Liaison	Jim Rogers	James.Rogers@fema.dhs.gov 202-717-0491

Key Messages

Resolving to be ready means understanding the risks and hazards where you live and taking steps now to prepare. Resolve to take a preparedness action or two each month so by the end of the year you are more prepared and resilient should an emergency take place that impacts your family or community.

- Make an emergency plan: choose a safe place to meet, learn evacuation routes, and establish an out-of-town contact.
- Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster.
- Get to know your neighbor and invite them to be a part of your emergency plan.
- Snap photos of important documents and save them in a secure place or online.
- Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family during emergencies.
- Take a class in CPR, first aid or [Stop the Bleed](#).
- Keep and update emergency supplies; remember to include cash.
- Have back-up power sources available to charge devices in case of a power outage.
- Snap pictures of your property for insurance purposes.
- Check your insurance for coverage on disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes.
- Sign up for alerts and warnings. Download the [FEMA app](#) to get real-time alerts, safety tips, and locate open shelters.
- Save for a rainy day! Start and grow your emergency fund.
- Financially prepare for the New Year. Find out how with the [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#).
- Spend within your means. Use a personal budgeting worksheet to help plan for holiday expenses and beyond.
- Build up your savings. Put a small amount in your account the first of every month beginning January 1.

Preparedness Actions for each Month:

January – Get Informed

January's preparedness action is to **get and stay informed**. When emergencies strike, public safety officials use timely and reliable systems to alert you. These free alert notification systems push out alerts and warnings via phone, text, or email. And unlike outdoor weather sirens, you are more likely to hear these alerts and warnings while inside the home or at night/while you are sleeping. To find out what's available in your community, contact your local emergency management agency or visit their website. You can also download free apps from trusted sources such as [FEMA](#) and the [American Red Cross](#) that provide disaster alerts as well as post-disaster information, shelter locations and where to get help.

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

[NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards \(NWR\)](#) is a nationwide network of radio stations that broadcast continuous weather information from the nearest National Weather Service office based on your physical location.

- NWR broadcasts official warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- NWR also broadcasts alerts of non-weather emergencies such as national security or public safety threats through the Emergency Alert System.

FEMA Mobile App

The [FEMA App](#) allows you to receive real-time weather and emergency alerts, send notifications to loved ones, locate emergency shelters in your area, get preparedness strategies and more.

- Receive real-time weather and emergency alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations nationwide.
- Find nearby shelter if you need to evacuate to a safe space.
- Find out if your location is eligible for FEMA assistance, find Disaster Recovery Center locations, and get answers to your most pressing questions.

Find out more about how you can stay informed by visiting [Emergency Alerts | Ready.gov](#).

February – Make a Plan

February's preparedness action is **make a plan**. Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which [types of disasters](#) could affect your area and how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. You will also need to establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find.

Step 1: Put a plan together by discussing the questions below with your family, friends or household to start your emergency plan.

1. How will I receive [emergency alerts and warnings](#)?
2. What is my [shelter](#) plan?
3. What is my [evacuation](#) route?
4. [What is my family/household communication plan](#)?
5. Do I need to update my [emergency preparedness kit](#)?

Step 2: Consider specific needs in your household.

As you prepare your plan tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Discuss your needs and responsibilities and how people in the network can assist each other with communication, care of children, business, pets or specific needs like operating medical equipment. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance. Keep in mind some these factors when developing your plan:

- Different ages of members within your household
- Responsibilities for assisting others
- Locations frequented
- Dietary needs
- Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment
- Disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment
- Languages spoken
- Cultural and religious considerations
- Pets or service animals
- Households with school-aged children

Step 3: Create a Family Emergency Plan

Make a Family Emergency Plan quickly and easily with our [fillable form](#).

Step 4: Practice your plan with your family/household

Practice your plan with every member of your family. Practice more frequently with children who have a shorter attention span and may not remember or retain information like older children and adults. With children, it helps to demonstrate, or show, them what to do. Being prepared empowers youth to actively participate in preparing and responding to a disaster or emergency and can help lessen anxiety and panic.

Ready more on how to make a family plan at [Make A Plan | Ready.gov](#).

March – Plan with Neighbors

March's preparedness action is **plan with neighbors**. Also in March is national Mr. Roger's [Won't You Be My Neighbor Day](#) (March 20th) which encourages individuals to engage with their neighbors and community. Hosting or arranging a disaster preparedness presentation or class in your neighborhood is an excellent way not only to meet and engage with your neighbors but help build community resiliency as well.

Disasters and other emergencies can disrupt access to everyday conveniences for hours, days or even weeks. Planning in advance requires thinking through the details of daily occurrences and what those activities and resources would look sheltering in place (with or without power), or if displaced from your home. Planning for your individual and family needs is important, but planning with your neighbors may help with access to resources, shelter options, plus emotional support.

Older adults, especially in rural communities, are disproportionately impacted by the types of weather-related emergencies and natural disasters that are becoming increasingly frequent and severe. And older adults who have chronic illnesses, functional limitations or disabilities are especially vulnerable.

Lear more about how you can help your neighbors at community be prepared at [Get Involved | Ready.gov](#).

April – Save for a Rainy Day

April's preparedness action is to **save for a rainy day and practice financial preparedness**. Americans at all income levels have experienced the challenges of rebuilding their lives after a disaster or other emergency. In these stressful times, having access to personal financial, insurance, medical and other records is crucial for starting the recovery process quickly and efficiently.

1. Gather financial and critical personal, household and medical information.
2. Consider saving money in an emergency savings account that could be used in any crisis. Keep a small amount of cash at home in a safe place. It is important to have small bills on hand because ATMs and credit cards may not work during a disaster when you need to purchase necessary supplies, fuel or food.
3. Obtain property (homeowners or renters), health and life insurance if you do not have them. Not all insurance policies are the same. Review your policy to make sure the amount and types of coverage you have meets the requirements for [all possible hazards](#). Homeowners insurance does not typically cover flooding, so you may need to purchase flood insurance from the [National Flood Insurance Program](#).
4. For more helpful financial preparedness tips, download the [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#) (EFFAK) to get started planning today.

Be Safe

- Be cautious about sharing personal financial information, such as your bank account number, social security number, or credit card number.
- Do not click on links in texts or emails from people you don't know. Scammers can create fake links to websites.
 - Remember that the government will not call or text you about owing money or receiving economic impact payments.
 - Be aware that scammers may try to contact you via social media. The government will not contact you through social media about owing money or receiving payments.
- Keep in mind that scammers may try to take advantages of financial fears by calling with work-from-opportunities, debt consolidation offers, and student loan repayment plans.
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at ftc.gov/complaint if you receive messages from anyone claiming to be a government agent.

Emergency Financial First Aid Kit

The [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#) (EFFAK), a joint publication from [Operation HOPE](#) and FEMA, can help you prepare financially and provides tips to reduce the financial impact of disasters on you and your family.

For more information on the EFFAK visit the [EFFAK Community Page](#).

Get Your Benefits Electronically

A disaster can disrupt mail service for days or weeks. If you depend on Social Security or other regular benefits, switching to electronic payments is a simple, significant way to protect yourself financially before disaster strikes. It also eliminates the risk of stolen checks. The U.S. Department of the Treasury recommends two safer ways to get federal benefits:

- Direct deposit to a checking or savings account. If you get federal benefits you can sign up by calling 800-333-1795 or [sign up online](#).
- The **Direct Express**® prepaid debit card is designed as a safe and easy alternative to paper.

Apply for government-funded unemployment, healthcare, and food and nutrition benefits to supplement your income or savings.

Consider using online and mobile banking services if you are able. These services enable you to practice social distancing and conduct banking transactions at the same time.

For more information on how you and your family can financially prepare, visit [Financial Preparedness | Ready.gov](#).

May – Build a Kit

May's preparedness action is to **build a kit**. After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own [food](#), [water](#) and other [supplies](#) to last for several days. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Make sure your emergency kit is stocked with the items on the checklist below. [Download a printable version](#) to take with you to the store. Once you take a look at the basic items consider what [unique needs](#) your family might have, such as supplies for [pets](#) or [seniors](#).

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

To assemble your kit store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- [Water](#) (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- [Food](#) (at least a several-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to [shelter in place](#))
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to [turn off utilities](#))
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

Additional Emergency Supplies

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- Soap, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- [Prescription medications](#). About half of all Americans take a prescription medicine every day. An emergency can make it difficult for them to refill their prescription or to find an open pharmacy. Organize and protect your prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, and vitamins to prepare for an emergency.
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container

- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Maintaining Your Kit

After assembling your kit remember to maintain it so it's ready when needed:

- Keep canned [food](#) in a cool, dry place.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers.
- Replace expired items as needed.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.

Kit Storage Locations

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work and cars.

- **Home:** Keep this kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept.
- **Work:** Be prepared to shelter at work for at least 24 hours. Your work kit should include food, water and other necessities like medicines, as well as comfortable walking shoes, stored in a “grab and go” case.
- **Car:** In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies [in your car](#).

To learn more, go to [Build A Kit | Ready.gov](#).

June – Make Your Home Safer

June's preparedness action is **make your home safer**. June is also National Home Safety Awareness Month and [National Safety Month - National Safety Council \(nsc.org\)](#).

Preparedness Starts at Home

[Ready.gov](#) has resources to help keep you safe from disasters like [tornadoes](#), [floods](#), [wildfires](#) and other [natural and man-made hazards](#). But are you prepared for everyday injuries that can happen at home?

Every year, millions of people seek medical attention after they're injured at home, so it's important to know what to do to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

Here are some common causes of injuries in the home:

- [Falls](#)
- [Poisoning](#), including drug overdoses
- [Burns](#)

Taking the first steps

When an injury happens at home, it's important to know what to do and have items on hand to help you understand how to react to injuries, stay safe, prevent further injury, and control pain in the injured individual.

Learn First Aid:

Minor and life-threatening emergencies can happen fast, and emergency responders aren't always nearby. You may be able to save a life by taking simple actions immediately. Take the free FEMA [You Are the Help Until Help Arrives](#), a web-based training to learn how you can provide first care to potentially save a life.

First aid is a skill, so it's important to be properly trained in the techniques used to prevent further injury, relieve pain, and maybe even save a life. Beyond knowing how to perform basic first aid, skills like Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), automated external defibrillator (AED), and how to administer Naloxone are important.

You can take a first aid class through organizations like the American Red Cross, local government groups, or places like the YMCA. Some programs are more expensive than others, so make sure you read course information carefully.

Build a First Aid Kit

In addition to your [disaster supplies kit](#), having a well-stocked first aid kit on hand can help you manage minor injuries or help keep an injured person safe until they can get professional medical help.

The [American Red Cross](#) suggests that a first-aid kit for a family of four include the following items:

- [A first-aid guide](#)
- Two 5 x 9 inches absorbent compress dressings
- 25 assorted size adhesive bandages

- A 10 yards x 1 inch roll of adhesive cloth tape
- Five antibiotic ointment packets
- Five individual antiseptic wipe packets
- Two packets of 81 milligram aspirin
- An emergency blanket
- A breathing barrier with a one-way valve
- An instant cold compress
- Two pairs of large sized nonlatex gloves
- Two hydrocortisone ointment packets
- One 3-inch gauze roll (roller) bandage
- A 4-inch-wide roller bandage
- Five 3 x 3-inch sterile gauze pads
- Five 4 by 4-inch sterile gauze pads
- A thermometer (non-mercury/non-glass)
- Two triangular bandages
- Tweezers

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about other items to keep on hand, including Naloxone.

You should customize your kit to fit your family's needs. You or a family member might have severe allergies and require antihistamines or an epinephrine injector. If you or a family member is living with diabetes, include a juice box, glucose tablets and gels, and an emergency glucagon injection kit. Chewable, baby aspirin might help someone who has coronary artery disease, provided the person is not allergic to aspirin.

Learn more about home safety at [Home Safety | Ready.gov](#).

July – Practice Plans and Emergency Drills

July's preparedness action is **practice plans and emergency drills**. Practice your plan with every member of your family to ensure everyone knows what to do and where to go should a disaster or emergency occur. Make sure family members know how to shut off utilities, use fire escape ladders, and evacuate the home and have them demonstrate it. Get out your emergency supply kit and review the contents to see if anything needs to be added or replaced.

Practice more frequently with younger children. Small children have a shorter attention span and may not remember or retain information like older children and adults. With children, it helps to show them what to do.

Being prepared empowers the entire family to actively participate in preparing and responding to a disaster or emergency and can help lessen anxiety and panic.

Ready more on how to make a family plan at [Make A Plan | Ready.gov](#).

August – Test Family Communication Plan

August's preparedness action is **test your family's communication plan**. The need to communicate is immediate when an emergency occurs. Contacts and contact information may change as well as the technology that you're using. Make a [communication plan](#) with your family and test it on a regular basis.

Be sure your communication plan includes various ways to reach each family member or member of your support network. Identify an out-of-town point of contact for your family in case the infrastructure where you live is impacted.

Text is best. In an emergency situation where cell networks can easily get flooded, it's often easier to communicate with contacts by text messaging than voice calls.

Learn more about creating a communication plan at [Make A Plan | Ready.gov](#).

September – Know Evacuation Routes and Identify Shelter Locations

September's preparedness action is **know evacuation routes and identify places to go** should you be displaced from your home. Many kinds of emergencies can cause you to have to evacuate. In some cases, you may have a day or two to prepare while other situations might call for an immediate evacuation. Planning is vital to making sure that you can evacuate quickly and safely no matter what the circumstances.

Before an Evacuation

- Learn the types of disasters that are likely in your community and the local emergency, evacuation and shelter plans for each specific disaster.
- [Plan](#) how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate.
- Check with local officials about what shelter spaces are available for this year.

- Identify several places you could go in an emergency such as a friend's home in another town or a motel. Choose destinations in different directions so that you have options during an emergency.
- If needed, identify a place to stay that will accept [pets](#). Most public shelters allow only service animals.
- Be familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
- Always follow the instructions of local officials and remember that your evacuation route may be on foot depending on the type of disaster.
- Come up with a family/household plan to stay in touch in case you become separated; have a meeting place and update it depending on the circumstance.
- Assemble supplies that are ready for evacuation. Prepare a "go-bag" you can carry when you evacuate on foot or public transportation and supplies for traveling longer distances if you have a car.
- If you have a car:
 - Keep a full tank of gas if an evacuation seems likely. Keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case of an unexpected need to evacuate. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages. Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.
 - Make sure you have a portable [emergency kit in the car](#).
- If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if needed. Decide with family, friends or your local emergency management office to see what resources may be available.

During an Evacuation

- Download the [FEMA app](#) for a list of open shelters during an active disaster in your local area.
- Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.
- Take your [emergency supply kit](#).
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Take your pets with you but understand that only service animals may be allowed in public shelters. [Plan how you will care for your pets in an emergency now](#).
- If time allows:
 - Call or email the out-of-state contact in your [family communications plan](#). Tell them where you are going.
 - Secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows.

- Unplug electrical equipment such as radios, televisions and small appliances. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding. If there is damage to your home and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving.
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a hat.
- Check with neighbors who may need a ride.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts, they may be blocked.
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas.

After an Evacuation

If you evacuated for the storm, check with local officials both where you're staying and back home before you travel.

- If you are returning to disaster-affected areas, after significant events prepare for disruptions to daily activities and remember that returning home before storm debris is cleared is dangerous.
- Let friends and family know before you leave and when you arrive.
- Charge devices and consider getting back-up batteries in case power-outages continue.
- Fill up your gas tank and consider downloading a fuel app to check for outages along your route.
- Bring supplies such as water and non-perishable food for the car ride.
- Avoid downed power or utility lines, they may be live with deadly voltage. Stay away and report them immediately to your power or utility company.
- Only use generators outside and away from your home and NEVER run a generator inside a home or garage or connect it to your home's electrical system.

Learn more about evacuations at [Evacuation | Ready.gov](#).

October – Get involved in Your Community

October's preparedness action is **get involved in your community**. There are valuable ways you can contribute to your community before, during, and after a disaster or other emergency.

Volunteer & Donate

During disaster response, affected communities depend heavily on local and national volunteer organizations to provide trained volunteers and much-needed donated supplies. Get involved today by donating to or volunteering with a reputable organization.

- Remember, cash is best. During a disaster, you can donate to a [recognized disaster relief organization](#). Financial contributions are the fastest, most flexible and most effective method of donating.
- [Volunteer](#) to respond to disasters and help your community.
- [Join a Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#) program and get trained on basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Train & Educate

You could help save countless lives by taking simple actions to prepare your community or organization for a disaster before one strikes. FEMA offers free trainings and education tools to train yourself and others on the best ways to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster or emergency.

- [You Are the Help Until Help Arrives](#), designed by FEMA, are offered as online or in-person trainings where you learn the basics of how to save a life before a professional arrives.
- [Teach preparedness curriculum](#) in your school or childcare facility. Download everything you need for grades K-12 through our Ready Kids program.
- Promote preparedness online by sharing preparedness tips on your social media accounts with [Ready's online social media toolkit](#) or [public service announcements](#).
- Take a free online independent study course through [FEMA's Emergency Management Institute](#) or a [CPR course through the American Red Cross](#) and gain more knowledge to help your community become more prepared.
- Take [FEMA's OPEN training](#) to prepare your Community Based Organization for emergency needs.

Learn more about getting involved at [Get Involved | Ready.gov](#).

November – Safeguard Documents

November's preparedness action is **safeguard critical documents**. Following a disaster, having important paperwork easily available can help expediate the recovery process. Important paperwork may include family records, wills, power of attorney documents, deeds, social security numbers, credit card and bank information, and tax records. It is best to keep these documents in a waterproof container or fireproof safe. Other important documents could include the names and numbers of people within your support network, as well as medical providers. It is also recommended to include cash or travelers checks to purchase supplies.

At Home

Store important documents either in a safety deposit box, an external drive or on the cloud to make it easy to access during a disaster.

Take time now to [safeguard these critical documents](#). Be cautious about sharing personal financial information, such as your bank account number, social security number, or credit card number.

Household Identification

- Photo ID (to prove identity of household members)
- Birth certificate (to maintain or re-establish contact with family members)
- Social Security card (to apply for FEMA disaster assistance)
- Military service
- Pet ID tags

Financial and Legal Documentation

- Housing payments (to identify financial records and obligations)
 - Some individuals and households may experience financial difficulty because of the pandemic. If you do not think you can pay your loan payments on time, immediately contact your bank and discuss your options before skipping any payments or taking any other actions contrary to the terms of your loans.
- Insurance policies (to re-establish financial accounts)
- Sources of income (to maintain payments and credit)
- Tax statements (to provide contact information for financial and legal providers and to apply for FEMA disaster assistance)

Medical Information

- Physician information (in case medical care is needed)
- Copies of health insurance information (to make sure existing care continues uninterrupted)
- Immunization records
- Medications

Insurance Information

Having insurance for your home or business property is the best way to make sure you will have the necessary financial resources to help you repair, rebuild or replace whatever is damaged. [Document and insure your property now.](#)

Household Contact Information

- Banking institutions
- Insurance agents
- Health professionals
- Service providers
- Place of worship

Learn more about safeguarding critical documents at [Financial Preparedness | Ready.gov.](#)

December – Document and Insure Property

December's preparedness action is **document and insure property**. Your home, your personal belongings, and your business are meaningful and valuable assets. If a disaster strikes, having insurance for your home or business property is the best way to ensure you will have the necessary financial resources to help you repair, rebuild, or replace whatever is damaged. Yet, more than half of all homeowners in the United States do not carry adequate homeowners insurance to replace their home and its contents should a catastrophic loss occur.

Before a disaster strikes, take the time to:

- Document your property
- Understand your options for coverage
- Ensure you have appropriate insurance for relevant hazards

Not all insurance policies are the same. Coverage amounts, deductibles, and payment caps can vary significantly. Consult with your insurance professional to be sure your policy is right for you. It is also important to review your policy annually to remind yourself of your coverage and to make any updates based on new purchases, renovations, increases in property value, or increases in costs to rebuild or replace items.

Inventory Your Home or Business

Regardless of the type of coverage you buy, maintaining a detailed inventory of your property's contents will assist you if a disaster strikes. Your inventory will help you prove the value of what you owned, which could speed your claim processing, and will provide documentation for tax deductions you can claim for your losses. An up-to-date inventory can also help you to determine the correct amount of insurance to purchase.

You can take photos or videos to help you record your belongings, but be sure to also write down descriptions, including year, make, and model numbers, where appropriate. For valuable items, you may want to have an appraisal to determine the item's worth. Be sure to store your inventory somewhere it can be easily accessed after a disaster.

Learn more at [Financial Preparedness | Ready.gov](#) and [Document and insure your property now](#).

Associated Content

Learn more information about preparedness for winter storms through the following links:

Hashtags & Emojis

- #ResolveToBeReady
- #ResolveToBeReady2025
- #PrepTips
- #NewYear
- #MonthlyPreparednessAction

Social Media Content

Share these key messages on all your social media platforms.

Get Tech Ready

- Download the FEMA app to get real-time alerts, safety tips, and locate open shelters.
- Sign up to receive text or email alerts about emergencies from your local Office of Emergency Management.
- Snap photos of important documents and save them online or in a secure place you can access during an emergency.
- Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family at the same time during emergencies.
- Download money saving apps to help you save for a rainy day.
- Have external power sources available to charge phones and other devices in case of a power outage. #ResolveToBeReady #PrepTips

General Preparedness Tips

- Include cash in your emergency supply kit. During an extended power outage, ATMs and credit card machines may not work.
- Check-in with neighbors to see how you can help each other out before and after a storm.
- Pick an out-of-town person for everyone to contact during an emergency.
- Preparing your family for an emergency is as simple as having a conversation over dinner. Make a plan tonight.
- As part of your family's emergency supply kit, include games and toys to keep children entertained.
- Get prepared by having an emergency supply kit already stored. www.ready.gov/kit #ResolveToBeReady
- Snap pictures of your property and make an inventory for insurance purposes.
- 30: The number of days it takes for flood insurance to begin. The time to buy is when it's dry.
- If you rely on public transportation, contact your local emergency management agency about evacuation procedures before a hurricane.
- Make a list of the things you would need or want to take with you if you had to leave your home quickly.
- Prepare your car for winter: keep your gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Make a plan to check on neighbors if extreme cold or winter weather knocks out your power.

- Learn how to shut off the utilities where you live, including water, electricity, and gas.
- #PrepTips: Take a first aid and CPR class. www.ready.gov/safety-skills #ResolveToBeReady
- Plan how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate. Don't forget to include pets in your plans! www.ready.gov/evacuation #ResolveToBeReady
- Assemble supplies for a “go-bag” you can carry if you need to evacuate www.ready.gov/evacuation #ResolveToBeReady #PrepTips
- Make a portable emergency kit for your car www.ready.gov/car #ResolveToBeReady
- Save. Save. Save. Your emergency savings can help you get life saving items like food, shelter, and water in an emergency. Saving tips: www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness #FinancialFuture
- 48% of people have an emergency fund, which gives them the savings to overcome simple emergencies. www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness #FinancialFuture

Planning with Pets

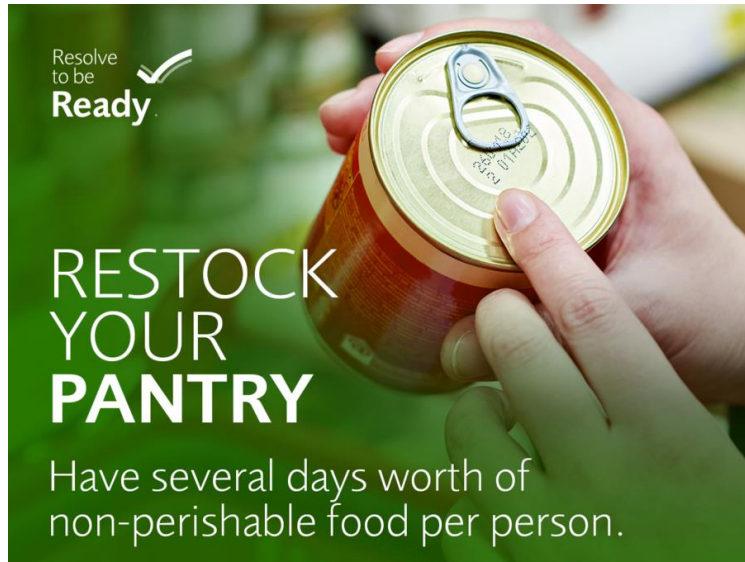
- Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster. www.ready.gov/pets #ResolveToBeReady #PetPreparedness
- Search online today for local pet-friendly evacuation locations in case you need to evacuate.
- Update your pet's microchip registration info so you can be contacted if your pet gets lost in a disaster. www.ready.gov/pets #ResolveToBeReady #PetPreparedness
- Put your name and contact information on your pet's ID tag in case you're separated in an emergency. www.ready.gov/pets #ResolveToBeReady #PetPreparedness
- Remember to include your pets in your family's emergency plans.

Resources for Youth and Teens

- [Ready Kids | Ready.gov](http://ReadyKids|Ready.gov)
- [Prepare with Pedro | Ready.gov](http://PreparewithPedro|Ready.gov)
- [Youth Preparedness Council | FEMA.gov](http://YouthPreparednessCouncil|FEMA.gov)
- [Teen CERT | Ready.gov](http://TeenCERT|Ready.gov)

Images and Graphics:

Find **Resolve to Be Ready** graphics and PSAs (in English and Spanish) for a variety of social media platforms at [Resolve to be Ready | Ready.gov](https://www.ResolveToBeReady.gov).





MEET YOUR **NEIGHBORS**

Get to know your neighbors before an emergency strikes. Cookies help!



BUDGET FOR A **DISASTER**

Gather critical financial information
and keep cash on hand at home.



Resolve
to be
Ready ✓

IT NEVER HURTS TO **BE PREPARED**

Be ready this year by practicing your
emergency plan with your family.



**RESOLVE TO
BE READY**
[READY.GOV/PLAN](https://ready.gov/plan)

Ready ✓



RESOLVE TO BE READY



RESOLVE TO BE READY



RESOLVE TO BE READY