

Safety Sense

Be Prepared



Everyone knows that you need to be prepared BEFORE an emergency happens. So, where do you begin to create a state of readiness at home? Here are some suggestions to get you household “emergency ready.”

- Develop a home emergency plan that outlines how your family will respond to different emergencies. Identify potential hazards and assign appropriate responsibilities to each family member.
- Identify and designate safe meeting points – both within your home and in the community. Make sure you map out evacuation routes from your home, work or school to designated safe areas.
- Create a communication plan that keeps you all connected during emergencies. Choose a family member or friend outside your area to serve as a central point of contact and share important phone numbers with the entire family and the emergency contact.
- Keep a list of emergency contact numbers handy. It should include local emergency services, your healthcare providers, schools, and utility companies. If you have little ones at home, teach them how to call emergency services and how to follow instructions from a first responder.
- Of course it's essential to create an emergency supply kit and keep it where it's easily accessible. It should include non-perishable food items, water, a flashlight, batteries, first aid kit, a multi-tool, blankets, personal hygiene items and (stored in a waterproof container) medications and important documents like copies of everyone's identification.

What should you do at your business to be prepared? Well, much of the information above applies to being prepared for a disaster at your business. Whether it's a large, medium or small business, you should:

- Develop an emergency plan that outlines procedures for various emergencies, evacuation routes, protocols for communicating with employees, and first aid measures.
- Educate everyone – especially leadership – on the emergency plan and practice it with employees to ensure they understand procedures and know how to respond in an emergency.

By following these steps, you can create a safer home and work environment and be better prepared when a disaster strikes.

