

Plan. Prepare. Protect.

3 steps to keep you & your family
safe when **disaster** strikes





DISASTER BRINGS HEARTACHE AND LOSS.

From tornadoes in the Midwest, to earthquakes in Nepal and Haiti, to the tsunami in Japan, the suffering after a major disaster is universal. No place on earth is free from danger.

That is why Operation Blessing delivers disaster relief in real time – quickly reaching out to hurting families with hot meals, emergency supplies, helping hands, and the love of Christ.

Too often, as our teams pick through the debris of damaged homes searching for precious family mementos, we hear disaster victims say, "How could we have prepared for this?"

How you prepare for a disaster goes a long way in keeping you safe when it comes. Our disaster relief tips will help you **create, manage and execute a plan** to keep you and your family protected during a major disaster, and speed recovery after it passes.

We hope this guide is a helpful tool for your disaster preparedness arsenal, one that helps you weather the next storm in your life.

May God bless you,

Gordon Robertson, **President**
Operation Blessing





Disasters often strike without warning, giving victims little time to react. Having a plan and being prepared can make all the difference when your family is facing a crisis.



Create a Family Emergency Plan.



It is important to have all the members of your family on the same page before a disaster strikes. We suggest you sit down together and address these key things.



- **When will you stay?** vs. **When will you leave?**
- **Meeting place for family members**— so you can gather and leave together.
- **Evacuation route** and location
- **Contact information for friends and family**— share your plan before you evacuate
- **Creating a family emergency kit.** (see pages 4-7)

EMERGENCY KIT:

Food & Water

Plan to have enough food and water on hand to support your family for at least 3-5 days.



- Water – 1 gallon per person per day
- Shelf-Stable – juice and milk boxes
- Beverages – powdered or canned fruit juices, milk, instant coffee, tea

- Prepared foods – *canned soups, beef, spaghetti, tuna, chicken, ham, packaged pudding*
- Canned vegetables and fruits
- Dried fruits
- Snacks – *crackers, cookies, hard candy, nuts*
- Snack spreads – *peanut butter, cheese spreads, jelly*
- Cereal

- Bread
- Raw vegetables
- Formula, baby food
- Sugar, salt, pepper
- Pet food





EMERGENCY KIT:

Essential Survival Supplies

Put these items aside in a plastic bin sealed with duct tape in a specific location, such as the garage.

- Flashlights and extra bulbs
- Battery-operated TV or radio
- Fully charged battery-operated lanterns – *don't get candles or kerosene lanterns – they are fire hazards.*
- Extra batteries
- Can opener
- Waterproof matches
- Clock – *wind-up or battery-operated*
- Plastic garbage bags
- Working fire extinguisher
- Scissors
- Hygiene Supplies – *toilet paper, moist towelettes, hand sanitizer*
- Clean change of clothes, rain gear, sturdy boots you wouldn't mind throwing away later
- Map of your area
- Wrench/pliers – *for disconnecting utilities at the request of local authorities*
- Infant supplies, diapers
- Sleeping bags – *in the event you evacuate to a shelter*
- Pet supplies – *cat litter, food, collars with tags, leashes, vaccine history, etc.*





EMERGENCY KIT:

Important Documents

It is important to gather and protect your essential documents in time of disaster. To the right is a list of documents you should have scanned, copied, and included in your Emergency Kit.

- Names, ages, birthdates and photos of immediate family members
- Contact phone numbers
- Birth certificates
- Social Security cards
- Driver's licenses/photo identification
- Insurance information
- Mortgage or renter's documents
- School transcripts
- Benefit letters for retirement/disability
- Medication lists



You may also consider uploading some or all of these documents to a secure cloud site such as *iCloud* or *OneDrive*.

In addition, such services are great for storing digital photos, so back up your digital photos at least once a month to avoid losing them in the event of a disaster.



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Gather all your food, supplies and documents in a centralized location and assemble your kit.

- Organize supplies and documents and place into Ziploc bags and vacuum bags for easy storage
- Place all items into a large plastic storage bin and seal with duct tape
- Establish a specific location in your house, such as the garage, where the Emergency Kit will stay

Now that you've assembled your kit and your plan, be sure to conduct dry runs as a family, so that when disaster strikes, you are sure everyone knows the plan and their part in its execution.





Hurricane

DISASTER TIPS

With the availability of hurricane tracking, it's easier to prepare for hurricanes than most other disasters. Usually, there is at least a day of warning before a hurricane will strike. By paying attention, and having your kit and plan ready to go, you will be ready when the storm hits.

- Pay attention to watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service
- Track longitude and latitude of storms to see their approach and whether or not your area will be affected
- Bring all outside plants, furniture and items not bolted to the ground inside for protection from high winds
- Evacuate early, if you decide to leave, to avoid traffic congestion



Tornado

DISASTER TIPS

Unlike hurricanes, tornadoes can strike at any time with very little warning. If the radio or television says that a tornado warning is in effect for your area, you have very little time to get to safety.

- If your house has a basement or storm cellar, anchor yourself there, away from windows
- If you have no basement or storm cellar, find the inmost room of your house, preferably one without windows and stay close to the ground
- If you are driving, try to get to a shelter
- If you are driving and unable to reach a shelter, park, keep your seatbelt on, and cover your head with your arms, a blanket or cushion

Did You Know? A child's toy whistle can help rescue workers find you in an emergency situation.



Flood

DISASTER TIPS

When the waters rise, you need to do your best to quickly assess if you are staying or leaving. Your area officials may call for a mandatory evacuation, but you may choose to voluntarily evacuate beforehand.

- Listen to the radio, or watch television to listen for flood warnings
- Move yourself, essential items, and electronics, to the second floor or to higher ground in home
- If you evacuate, remember not to drive through flooded areas, as your car might stall out and you will be trapped
- Take caution and walk only through still water to avoid falling and possibly drowning
- Stack furniture and wrap in large plastic bags – (truck rental and moving companies sell mattress bags which will accommodate many items)



Earthquake

DISASTER TIPS

Like tornadoes, earthquakes can hit without warning. You may only have seconds to respond when you start to feel the effects of an earthquake, so practice your response often.

- If you are standing, drop to the ground and cover your head and neck with your arms in case of falling debris
- If you are in bed, stay where you are rather than risking additional injury by trying to move around in the dark
- If you are outside, move to an open area, away from buildings and wires, and drop to the ground, covering your head and neck with your arms in case of falling debris
- If you are in a motor vehicle, stop in an open area, away from overpasses, buildings and trees, and stay in your vehicle until the shaking ends

Family Emergency Communication Plan

Home #

Address

Name

Mobile # Other #

Email

Important medical or other information

Name

Mobile # Other #

Email

Important medical or other information

Name

Mobile # Other #

Email

Important medical or other information



School, Childcare, and Workplace **Emergency Plans**

Name

Address

Emergency / Hotline #

Website

Emergency Plan / Pick-Up

Name

Address

Emergency / Hotline #

Website

Emergency Plan / Pick-Up

Name

Address

Emergency / Hotline #

Website

Emergency Plan / Pick-Up

In Case of Emergency Contact

Name

Mobile #

Home #

Email

Address

Out-of-Town Contact

Name

Mobile #

Home #

Address

Emergency Meeting Places

Indoor

Instructions

Outdoor

Instructions

Out-of-Neighborhood

Address

Instructions

Important Numbers or Information

Police		Dial 911 or #	
Fire		Dial 911 or #	
Poison Control		#	
Doctor		#	
Pediatrician		#	
Dentist		#	
Medical Insurance		#	
Policy #			
Hospital / Clinic		#	
Pharmacy		#	
Homeowner / Rental Insurance		#	
Policy #			
Flood Insurance		#	
Policy #			
Veterinarian		#	
Kennel		#	
Electric Company		#	
Gas Company		#	
Water Company		#	
Alternate / Accessible Transportation		#	

LEARN MORE AT [ready.gov/prepare](https://www.ready.gov/prepare)

 **OPERATION BLESSING**

