

Plan.
Prepare.
Protect.

Steps to keep you & your family
safe when **disaster** strikes





ARE YOU PREPARED FOR DISASTER?

Over the years, our teams at Operation Blessing have helped thousands of disaster victims pick through the debris of their damaged homes, searching for precious family mementos.

They often ask us, **“How could we have prepared for this?”**

Tornadoes, fires, earthquakes, floods, and other calamities can strike without warning. **But we want you to be ready for any disaster!**

Proper preparation can go a long way toward keeping you safe. The tips included in this booklet will help you create, manage and execute a plan to protect yourself and your loved ones during a major disaster—and also assist with a speedy recovery.

I trust you'll find that this guide is a helpful tool that equips and empowers you to weather any storm that may come your way. God bless you!

Sincerely in Christ,

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
- Cereal
- Bread
- Formula, baby food
- Snack spreads (*peanut butter, cheese spreads, jelly*)
- Snacks (*crackers, cookies, hard candy, nuts*)
- Raw vegetables
- 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 radio
- Fully charged battery-operated lantern—*don't get candles or kerosene lanterns—they are fire hazards.*
- Phone Charging Brick and USB Cable
- 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





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.



EMERGENCY KIT:

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.





FACING NEW CHALLENGES

Recently, we've all discovered how important it is to stay prepared for pandemics and other emergencies that might keep us shut in our homes. The tips mentioned in the prepare section will also come in handy in these critical times, providing your family with essential supplies.

To be extra ready for lock-down circumstances, consider keeping a separate bin in a climate-controlled environment with masks, soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectants, and immune-boosting supplements. In addition, add other vital items that might be in short supply during disruptions to normal production and distribution.





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.

- Know your evacuation zone and route. Evacuate early, if you decide to leave, to avoid traffic congestion
- 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



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 not, find the inmost room of your house, preferably one without windows, stay close to the ground, and cover yourself with blankets, pillows, or mattress to protect against debris
- 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

Visit [ob.org/disaster-prep](https://www.ob.org/disaster-prep) for more tips including severe thunderstorms and wildfires.



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. Hide under sturdy furniture, not in a doorway, and cover your head and torso
- 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**