



THE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS HANDBOOK

THREE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF SURVIVING A DISASTER

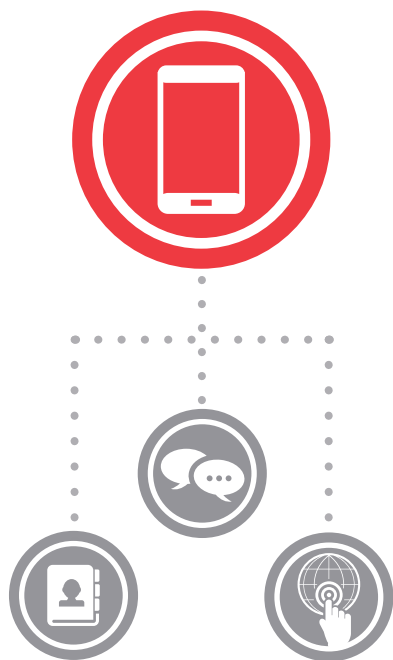
Each disaster is different, of course, presenting unique risks that you need to be aware of. But there are basics that will serve you well in any situation you might find yourself in. With the right tools and the right information, you can keep yourself and your family safe.

① CREATE AN EMERGENCY KIT

If you're forced to ride out a storm, shelter in place, or take action in almost any disaster that might strike, this kit is vital. Your basic emergency kit should include:

- ☐ A gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- ☐ Personal prescriptions and medical supplies
- ☐ A three-day supply of nonperishable food
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Emergency cash
- ☐ Pet supplies
- ☐ Dust masks
- ☐ Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- ☐ Towelettes, garbage bags, and ties for sanitation
- ☐ Pliers, can opener, and some basic hand tools
- ☐ Local maps
- ☐ Cell phone with charger





② CREATE A COMMUNICATION PLAN

The first concern is the safety of your family and loved ones. Because your family may not be together when a disaster strikes, it's vital to create a network of communication to ensure that everyone is accounted for and safe.

You and your family members should have:

- ☐ Each other's phone numbers
- ☐ School and workplace names, addresses, and phone numbers
- ☐ Procedure for who will contact whom. It's sometimes faster to send a text instead of talking on phone lines that may be overloaded in an emergency.
- ☐ Known locations of where to go and meet in an emergency



③ CREATE AN EVACUATION PLAN

A fire or flood is the typical reason for an evacuation. But other disasters, like industrial accidents, can also require evacuation.

In some cases, evacuation is mandatory. In others, it's optional. The amount of time you have to react will depend on the disaster. You'll have more time for weather emergencies like hurricanes, but many other disasters require immediate evacuation. That's why planning is vital.

Here's what to do:

- ☐ Use your Communication Plan (above) to know in advance how you will contact your family members and where you will meet.
- ☐ Keep your car in good repair, and try to have at least a half tank of gas at all times. If you don't have a car or don't drive, make arrangements with family members or neighbors.
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes in advance to avoid confusion.
- ☐ Leave early. If you wait too long, you may reduce your options or be forced to remain in place.
- ☐ Take your Emergency Kit with you.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

FAMILY MEMBERS

Name

Address

Phone

Name

Address

Phone

Name

Address

Phone

Name

Address

Phone

Name

Address

Phone

**EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON OUTSIDE OF
THE FAMILY'S IMMEDIATE AREA IF FAMILY MEMBERS
ARE SEPARATED:**

Name

Address

Phone

**CHILDREN WHO ARE AT
SCHOOL OR DAYCARE WILL
BE EVACUATED TO:**

Child's Name

Evacuation Site

Child's Name

Evacuation Site

Child's Name

Evacuation Site

Child's Name

Evacuation Site

**FAMILY MEMBER
RESPONSIBILITIES
ASSIGNED TO:**

Maintain Emergency Kit

**Monitor NOAA, local radio, or TV
for information**

**Take family medical information
if evacuated**

**Manage bank statements, cash, and
credit cards**

**Evacuate pets and maintain a list of
pet shelters**

**Complete and share evacuation and
communication plans**

EVACUATION ROUTES FROM OUR HOME:

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RENDEZVOUS POINT IF FAMILY MEMBERS ARE SEPARATED IN A DISASTER:

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EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AGENCIES

THE SALVATION ARMY

To find your local Salvation Army for disaster relief and recovery assistance, visit: www.salvationarmyusa.org

To learn more about The Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Services, visit: www.disaster.salvationarmyusa.org

STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES

To find the disaster assistance agencies in your state and local community, visit: www.ready.gov

State Agency Name

Phone Number

Local Agency Name

Phone Number

LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Address

Emergency Phone Number

Non-emergency Phone Number

LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Address

Emergency Phone Number

Non-emergency Phone Number

LOCAL MEDICAL FACILITY

Address

Emergency Phone Number

Non-emergency Phone Number

FAMILY DOCTOR

Name

Office Address

Phone Number



THE SALVATION ARMY: THERE WHEN IT MATTERS

The Salvation Army's disaster work began in the United States after the hurricane in Galveston, Texas, in 1900.

The National Commander at the time, Frederick Booth-Tucker, ordered Salvation Army Officers from across the country to the disaster site to provide spiritual counsel and practical assistance. The Army's first food service was performed, not from a mobile kitchen, but by caring for people with water and coffee who helped those suffering and those involved in the recovery efforts.

After Galveston, early Salvationists developed simple vehicles to rush food and beverages to victims and first responders. These early trucks developed over the years into specialized pieces of equipment. The Salvation Army even has several tractor-trailer-sized field kitchens for added capacity during catastrophic events.

Since 1900, The Salvation Army Emergency

Disaster Services teams have answered the call, creating the ministry of presence. The Salvation Army is known for in such emergencies as:

- The 9/11 Terror Attack on the World Trade Center
- Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans
- Superstorm Sandy in New Jersey
- The Waldo Canyon and High Park fires in Colorado, two of the worst in the state's history, as well as other wildfires in Colorado and surrounding areas
- Thousands of fires, floods, hurricanes, storms, chemical spills, and more in local communities across the country

No matter what the emergency, when people are hurting, The Salvation Army responds with compassion and continues to serve until every need is met.



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THE SALVATION ARMY'S ROLE IN A DISASTER

The Salvation Army is officially recognized by federal, state, and local governments across the country as a sanctioned disaster relief and assistance organization. All members of our Emergency Disaster Services team are ministering in that they serve as a means of expressing God's love to those in need.

We provide spiritual comfort and emotional support to people coping with the trauma of a disaster. This is our ministry of presence, and it's a key part of our work in every disaster or emergency.

THREE PHASES OF THE SALVATION ARMY'S WORK

1

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We recognize that preparedness is critical, so we make sure that we can respond quickly and efficiently to any disaster.

- ♥ **Emergency vehicles.** We maintain a fleet of emergency response vehicles, including mobile canteen and kitchen units, throughout the country. We also operate warehouse facilities nationwide for stockpiling food, water, and medical supplies.
- ♥ **Disaster training.** We sponsor events across the country to educate first responders and the public about emergency preparedness and response.

2

IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Because each disaster is unique, our response varies depending on the situation and the magnitude of the disaster. But overall, The Salvation Army's response will include:

- ♥ **Food and hydration** for survivors, workers and first responders
- ♥ **Spiritual and emotional care**
- ♥ **Emergency shelter** for victims in local facilities, including municipal shelters and Salvation Army buildings
- ♥ **Cleanup supplies** like mops, brooms, buckets, shovels, detergents, and tarps
- ♥ **Emergency communications** through The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network

3

LONG-TERM DISASTER RECOVERY

We offer long-term support depending on the disaster and the number of people affected. Coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies, we provide:

- ♥ **Restoration and rebuilding** by working with volunteer rebuilding teams, and establishing warehouses for building supplies.
- ♥ **Spiritual and emotional care**
- ♥ **Social services** that provide help with essential living supplies, emergency household needs, disaster-related expenses, and more.
- ♥ **Donated goods**, such as clothing and other items, through warehouses and distribution centers.



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www.salvationarmyusa.org ♦ www.disaster.salvationarmyusa.org

“Doing The Most Good.” These four words reflect The Salvation Army’s mission to feed, to clothe, to comfort, to care. The Salvation Army operates 7,546 centers in communities across the United States offering a range of social services as well as disaster relief and recovery.

Your generous support makes this vital work possible.