

Make a Plan

Monsoon storms, floods, wildfires and hazardous materials spills – even terrorist strikes around the world – are real threats that affect Arizonans.

The effects and prior fear of these threats can be lessened through awareness and planning. Take the first step to better preparedness by making a family communications plan.

What goes into a family communications plan? Since your family may not be together during a disaster, plan how to contact each other. Many disasters cause disruptions in technology. Write down important phone numbers, including those for home, work, cell and school, and carry them with you.

Make sure every member of your family carries the [list of important phone numbers](#) in their wallet, purse or backpack.

Designate a meeting place everyone is familiar with, as well as an out-of-town friend or relative to contact, because it might be easier to make long-distance phone calls during an emergency. If necessary, the out-of-town contact can coordinate communication among separated family members.

Another aspect of the plan is deciding where and when to evacuate. Designate a location immediately outside your house for family members to meet. Talk about alternate locations to meet within the neighborhood.

Also, learn what [hazards threaten your home](#), neighborhood and community. Take the time to practice your plan. Your family plan will help you be prepared to stay (shelter in place) or go (evacuate) in an emergency.

Learn what your evacuation plan is at work and at your children's schools. The time you invest today will help minimize the stress during an actual emergency.

Think about how you will be notified during a disaster. People might be alerted to man-made and natural disasters by radio and television broadcasts. Do you also have a battery-operated radio to be able to receive updated information if there is no electricity?

[Arizona Emergency Information Network](#) posts real-time updates about emergencies and disasters throughout the state.

Preparedness events will take place in various places throughout the state to show citizens how easy it is to make a preparedness plan and make it work for them.

Resources

- [Arizona Emergency Information Network \(AzEIN\)](#)
- [just in case arizona](#)
- [Ready America](#)