

Natural disasters can strike at any time, so it's important to be ready for them. Here are some tips on how to be prepared:

- 1. Learn about the natural disasters that are most likely to occur in your area. This will help you to understand the risks and to make informed decisions about how to prepare.
- 2. Create a disaster plan. This plan should include information about how you will evacuate, how you will communicate with your loved ones, and how you will meet your basic needs after a disaster.
- 3. Assemble an emergency kit. This kit should include food, water, first-aid supplies, and other essential items that you will need in the event of a disaster.
- 4. Make sure your home is safe. This includes things like securing your foundation, trimming trees, and having a working smoke detector.

Here are some additional tips for preparing for a natural disaster:

- Have a plan for your pets. This includes having a safe place for them to stay and making sure they have food and water.
- Identify your weaknesses. What are the things that would make it difficult for you to evacuate or to cope with a disaster? Once you know your weaknesses, you can start to develop plans to address them.
- Get involved in your community. This will help you to connect with other people who are also preparing for a disaster and to get access to resources.
- Practice your plan. This will help you to make sure that your plan is realistic and that you know what to do in the event of a disaster.

By following these tips, you can help to ensure that you and your loved ones are prepared for a natural disaster.

Here are some additional resources that you may find helpful:

- Ready.gov: <u>https://www.ready.gov/</u>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <u>https://www.fema.gov/</u>
- American Red Cross: <u>https://www.redcross.org/</u>
- National Weather Service: <u>https://www.weather.gov/</u>



It can be helpful to have a check list when dealing with a natural disaster. Here are a few things you can include:

- Water: One gallon per person per day for at least three days.
- Food: Non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items that will last for at least three days.
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio: This will allow you to stay informed about the disaster and to receive emergency alerts.
- Flashlight: This will be essential for getting around in the dark.
- First-aid kit: This will come in handy if you or someone you know is injured.
- Multi-tool: This will be useful for a variety of tasks, such as cutting rope, opening cans, and fixing small appliances.
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items: This includes things like soap, toilet paper, and feminine hygiene products.
- Copies of important documents: This includes things like your insurance policies, birth certificates, and medical records.
- Cash or traveler's checks: This will be essential if you are unable to use your credit or debit cards.
- Pet food and water: If you have pets, make sure to include food and water for them in your emergency kit.
- It is also important to know how to shut off your utilities in an event where they may be compromised: Natural Gas – Propane – Water – Electrical

It is essential to have a plan for how you will evacuate your home if necessary. This plan should include information about where you will go, how you will get there, and who you will contact.

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