

THE CITY OF Edinburg



Emergency Preparedness Guide



READY EDINBURG

Protecting our homeland calls for a collaborative and proactive effort among citizens, corporations, and the government.

All Americans should begin a process of learning about potential threats such as natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and other emergencies so that we are better prepared to handle these situations. While there is no way to predict what will happen, or what your personal circumstances will be, there are simple things you can do to prepare yourself and your families.

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling a supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both natural and man-made emergencies. However, as these situations will differ in threat and scope, there are important differences as related to the decisions you make and the actions you take. Being responsible, proactive, and taking steps toward preparedness will help you plan for the emergency.



MAKE A PLAN

You should plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Be prepared to assess the situation, use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and your loved ones. Think about the places where your family spends time: school, work and other places you frequent. Ask about their emergency plans. Find out how they will communicate with families during an emergency. If they do not have an emergency plan, consider helping develop one.

CREATING A FAMILY PLAN

A plan should have three important things:

- A meeting place
 - An out-of-area contact
 - An emergency supply kit
1. **A Meeting Place**—Pick a location within walking distance of your home where your family members can meet in case you get separated or have to evacuate. For example, select a local park or playground.
 2. **An Out-of-Area Contact**—Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations. Pick a family member or friend to serve as your family's out-of-area contact. In an emergency, you can call your out-of-area contact and tell them you are safe and where you are going.
 3. **An Emergency Supply Kit**—it is recommended to have supplies for a minimum of three days, but having enough supplies to maintain a kit for a longer period of time is better.



MAKE A PLAN

BUSINESS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES

The procedures spell out how the facility will respond to emergencies.

COORDINATE WITH OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

Meet periodically with local government agencies and community organizations. Inform appropriate government agencies that you are creating an emergency management plan. While their official approval may not be required, they will likely have valuable insights and information to offer.

IMPLEMENT THE PLAN

Integrate The Plan Into Company Operations

Look for opportunities to build awareness; to educate and train personnel; to test procedures; to involve all levels of management; all departments and the community in the planning process; and to make emergency management a part of what personnel do on a day-to-day basis.

Conduct Training:

- Orientation and Education Sessions
- Tabletop Exercise
- Walk-through Drill
- Functional Drills
- Evacuation Drill
- Full-scale Exercise

ESTABLISH A PLANNING TEAM

ANALYZE CAPABILITIES AND HAZARDS—This step entails gathering information about current capabilities and about possible hazards and emergencies, and then conducting a vulnerability analysis to determine the facility capabilities for handling emergencies.

Where do you stand right now?

Review Internal Plans and Policies

- Security procedures
- Insurance programs
- Hazardous materials plan
- Risk management plan
- Capital improvement program
- Mutual aid agreements

Meet with Outside Partners

- Community emergency management office
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Public Works Department
- Telephone companies
- Electric utilities
- Neighboring businesses

Identify Critical Products, Services and Operations

- Products and services provided by suppliers, especially sole source vendors
- Lifeline services such as; electrical power, water, sewer, gas, telecommunications and transportation.
- Operations, equipment and personnel vital to the continued functioning of the facility.



Flood



Tornado



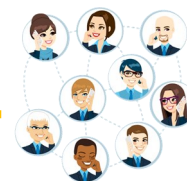
House Fire



Pack an emergency supply kit



Keep a list of important addresses and phone numbers (work/school/doctors)



Agree on one friend or relative for everyone to call



Identify safe places around your neighborhood and further from home to meet



Know the evacuation location for your area

Being prepared can help you and your family stay connected in an emergency

PREPARE A KIT - WATER AND FOOD

When preparing an emergency kit it is best to first think about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth. Take an even more proactive approach and prepare a kit for both your vehicle and work place.

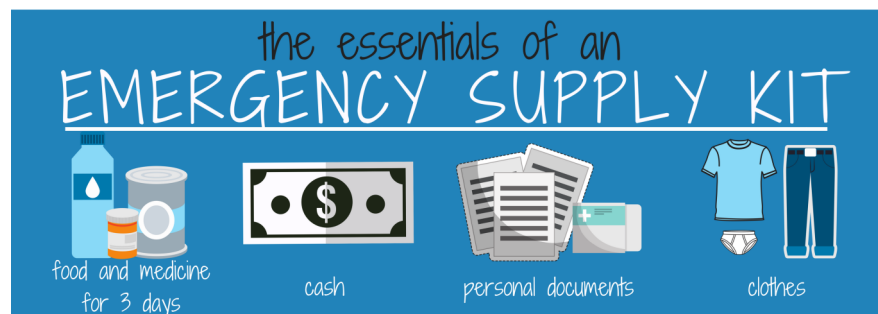
WATER AND FOOD

Water

- One gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation.
- Children, nursing mothers, and sick people may need more water.
- If you live in a warm weather climate more water may be necessary.
- Store water tightly in clean plastic containers such as soft drink bottles.
- Keep at least a three-day supply of water per person.

Food

- Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water.
- Pack a manual can opener and eating utensils.
- Choose foods your family will eat:
 - Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables
 - Protein or fruit bars
 - Dry cereal or granola
 - Peanut butter
 - Dried fruit
 - Nuts
 - Crackers
 - Canned juices
 - Non-perishable pasteurized milk
 - High energy foods
 - Vitamins
 - Food for infants
 - Comfort/stress foods



PREPARE A KIT - WATER AND FOOD

FIRST AID KIT AND CHECKLIST

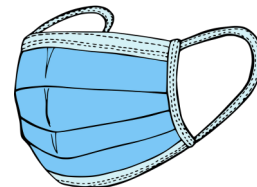
In any emergency, a family member or you yourself may be cut, burned or suffer other injuries. The list of basic supplies below will provide assistance during these instances. Remember, many injuries are not life threatening and do not require immediate medical attention. Knowing how to treat minor injuries can make a difference in an emergency. A proactive measure is to take a basic first aid class, but simply assembling the following items in a first aid kit can help you stop bleeding, prevent infection and assist in decontamination.

THINGS YOU SHOULD HAVE:

- Two pairs of latex or other sterile gloves (if you are allergic to latex)
- Sterile dressings to stop the bleeding
- Cleansing agent/soap and antibiotic towelettes to disinfect
- Antibiotic ointment to prevent infection
- Burn ointment to prevent infection
- Adhesive bandages in a variety of sizes
- Eye wash solution to flush the eyes or as general decontaminant
- Prescription medications you take every day such as; insulin, heart medicine and asthma inhalers. You should periodically rotate medicines to account for expiration dates
- Prescribed medical supplies such as; glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment and supplies
- Radio and NOAA weather radio with a tone-alert feature (include extra batteries)
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Whistle to signal help
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt to help filter the air
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in place
- Infant formula and diapers (if needed)
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

OTHER ITEMS TO CONSIDER:

- Cell Phones and Chargers
- Scissors & Tweezers
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Non Prescription Drugs:
 - Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
 - Anti-diarrhea medication
 - Antacid (for upset stomach) or Laxative
- Emergency reference material such as; a first aid book or a print out of this information
- Mess kits, cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Cash or traveler's checks, change
- Paper towels
- Fire Extinguisher
- Compass
- Paper, pencil
- Feminine supplies
- Disinfectant
- Rain gear
- Tent
- Signal flare
- Medicine dropper
- Personal hygiene items
- Household bleach



SUPPLY CHECKLISTS AND EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

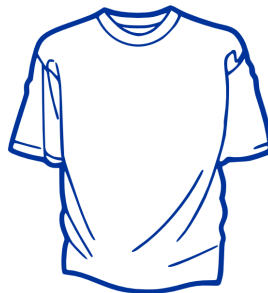
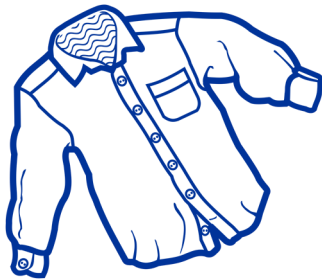
Water, food and clean air are essential items necessary for survival. Each family or individual's kit should be customized to meet specific needs, such as; medication and infant formula. It should also be customized to include important family documents.

CLOTHING AND BEDDING:

During cold weather months, it is important to prepare for warmth. There is a possibility that the power will be out and you will not have heat. Rethink your clothing and bedding supplies to account for growing children and other family changes.

One complete change of warm clothing and shoes per person, including:

- A jacket or coat
- A long sleeve shirt
- A hat
- Long pants
- Sturdy shoes and socks
- Gloves
- A sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person



SPECIAL NEEDS ITEMS FOR INFANTS & ADULTS OR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SPECIAL NEEDS ITEMS:

Remember the special needs of your family members, infants, the elderly and persons with disabilities need the same planning as everyone else and sometimes require additional emergency preparation.

FOR BABY:

- Diaper rash ointment
- Formula
- Diapers
- Bottles
- Powdered milk
- Medications
- Moist towelettes

FOR ADULTS:

Ask your doctor about storing prescription medication such as; heart and high blood pressure medication, insulin and other prescription drugs.

- Denture needs
- Extra eye glasses
- Contact lenses and supplies

FOR SENIORS AND/OR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:

- Plan how you will evacuate before an emergency occurs
- Pre-register with 2-1-1 for transportation assistance
- Discuss your emergency procedures with a home health provider
- Program "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) in your cell phone and list the telephone(s) of friends/relatives to be contacted in an emergency
- Write down medications, including dosages and allergies. Place your information and current medications in a waterproof bag and take you in an emergency
- Include copies of important papers such as; medical insurance and Medicare/Medicaid cards in you kit
- Wear a medical alert tag or bracelet to help identify your disability
- Take advantage of your local pharmacy's computer tracking system by filling out a medication profile
- Create a plan for an alternative source of power if you use electricity to operate medical equipment
- Contact your power & water company about your needs for life support devices before an emergency occurs. Many companies have a "priority reconnection service" list
- If you are dependent on dialysis or other life sustaining treatment, know the location and availability of services from more than one facility

SPECIAL NEEDS ITEMS FOR INFANTS & ADULTS OR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

CONTINUATION: FOR SENIORS AND/OR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:

- Be aware of oxygen safety practices; avoid areas where gas leaks or flames may be present
- Always use battery powered flashlight or lanterns rather than gas, lights or candles when **OXYGEN IS IN USE**
- Keep extra supplies available such as oxygen, walking cane, walker, hearing aid batteries, wheelchair batteries and manual wheelchair
- Keep scooter or wheelchair patch kit available, consider extra inner tubes and other repair supplies. Include heavy gloves for wheeling over glass and debris
- Keep a list in your kit of the style and serial number of medical devices such as: pacemakers, etc
- Pad and pen/pencil for communication and for instructions
- Keep an emergency supply kit for your pet
- Service animals may become confused, frightened or disoriented during an emergency. Keep them confined or securely leashed



PET CHECKLIST

PET EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Leaving a pet behind can result in injury, loss or death. Always take your pet with you.

- Before a disaster, identify a safe location to bring your pet to, such as; a pet friendly hotel, a kennel or a friend's home.
- In the event that you cannot make it back to your house, arrange for a friend or neighbor to care for your pet.

A PET SUPPLY KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:

- 3-5 day supply of food and water (include a can opener)
- Bowl for food and water
- Current photo of you and your pet, including a physical description with any distinct markings
- Medications and current vaccination records
- Leash, harness, or muzzle; collar with current ID tag
- Carrier large enough for your dog or cat to comfortably sleep in
- Blankets or towels for bedding and warmth
- Treats and toys for comfort
- Plastic bags for waste disposal
- Cat litter and container to be used as a litter box
- First aid kit for pets

After a disaster, walk pets on a leash until they become re-oriented to their home. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and pets could be easily lost. Downed power lines and other debris could pose a threat.



NATURAL DISASTERS - MOST COMMON HAZARDS

Planning what to do in advance is an important part of being prepared. Find out what natural disasters are most common in your area.

MOST COMMON HAZARDS:

- **Fire** - Is the most common of all hazards. Every year fires cause thousands of death and injuries and billions of dollars in property damage.
- **Hazardous Materials Incident** - Are substances that are either flammable or combustible, explosive, toxic, noxious, corrosive, oxidizable and irritant or radioactive.
- **Floods and Flash Floods** - Are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Most communities in the United States can experience some degree of flooding after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms or winter snow thaws.
 - * Move furniture and valuables to a higher level
 - * Store important documents in waterproof containers
- **Hurricanes** - Are severe tropical storms with sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or greater. Hurricane winds can reach 160 miles per hour and extend inland for hundreds of miles.
 - * Board up doors and windows with plywood or install storm shutters
 - * Keep in mind that winds are stronger at higher elevations
 - * Secure outdoor objects that could be dangerous, such as patio furniture, hanging plants, trash bins, tools and barbeque pits

Hurricanes can also produce tornadoes, adding to the destructive power of the entire storm.

- **Tornadoes** - Are incredibly violent local storms that extend to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour.
- **Severe Winter Storms** - Bring heavy snow, ice, strong winds and freezing rain. Winter storms can prevent employees and customers from reaching the facility, leading to a temporary shutdown until roads are cleared. Heavy snow and ice can also cause structural damage and power outages.
- **Earthquakes** - Occur most frequently West of the Rocky Mountains, although historically the most violent earthquakes have occurred in the central United States. Earthquakes occur suddenly and without warning.
- **Technological Emergencies** - Includes any interruption or loss of a utility service, power source, life support system, information system or equipment needed to keep the business in operation.

PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY

TAKING INVENTORY - Having a complete inventory of your personal belongings can be invaluable in obtaining a prompt insurance settlement and documenting losses for tax purposes. Get a checklist from your insurance agent. Write full descriptions and take pictures. Store these and other important documents up and out of the way, in waterproof containers or a safety deposit box.

ARE YOU COVERED? - Review your existing policies to avoid disappointment later. Take advantage of flood insurance. You need a separate policy for protection against flood damage something storm victims frequently don't discover until it's too late.

PREPARE FOR HIGH WINDS AND TIDES:

- Turn off gas, water and electricity, as well as major appliances that could come on suddenly when power is restored.
- Lock all windows and doors
- Board up or shutter large windows securely
- Draw drapes across windows and doors to protect against flying glass if shattering does occur
- Brace the garage door and lower antennas
- Anchor garbage cans awnings, garden tools and outdoor toys or bring them indoors
- Boats on trailers should be moved close to the house and filled with water. Lash them securely to their trailers and use tie-downs to anchor the trailers to the ground or house
- Check the mooring lines of boats in the water, then leave the area

AFTER THE STORM

WHAT TO EXPECT

Widespread devastation, with roads blocked by debris, sewers backed up and overflowing, weakened buildings and bridges, no electrical power or phone service, no running water and overloaded emergency services. Don't try to return to your home until local authorities declare it safe to do so.

BEWARE OF UNSAFE FOOD AND WATER

Refrigerated food may go bad in the event of a power outage that lasts for more than a few hours. However, freezers will keep food for several days if their doors are kept closed. Boil tap water before drinking unless you are told it is unnecessary.

UTILITIES AFTER A DISASTER

Treat all downed lines as live wires and don't touch them. Tell children to stay away from fallen trees, wires may be hidden in the branches. If a wire is touching your car, stay inside and wait for help to arrive. Inside your home, don't flip light switches or attempt to light or turn on appliances. If you smell gas, leave the area immediately and notify the proper authorities.

MAKING TEMPORARY REPAIRS:

Without taking unnecessary risks, protect your property from further damage or looting. Your insurance may cover the cost of materials used to make such repairs, so save all receipts. These also will come in handy if you have losses you wish to claim on your tax return.

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY:

Inform your insurance agent or broker of any damage and leave word where you can be reached. Don't assume your settlement will be the same as your neighbor's. Policies differ and damage is often haphazard.

SHELTER IN PLACE/DECIDING TO STAY OR GO

Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and available information, including what you are learning here, to determine if there is immediate danger.

In any emergency, local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should monitor TV (Edinburg Cable Network or local news), or radio news reports for information or official instructions as they become available. If you are specifically told to evacuate or seek medical treatment, do so immediately.

STAYING PUT:

Whether you are at home, work, or elsewhere, there may be situations when it is simply best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside.

There are other circumstances when staying put and creating barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside, a process known as “sealing the room,” is a matter of survival. Use available information to assess the situation. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may want to take this kind of action.

The process used to seal the room is considered a temporary protective measure to create a barrier between you and potentially contaminated air outside. It is a type of sheltering in place that requires pre-planning.

TO “SHELTER IN PLACE AND SEAL THE ROOM”:

- Bring your family and pets inside
- Lock doors, close windows, air vents, and fireplace dampers
- Turn off fans, air condition, and forced air heating systems
- Take your emergency supply kit unless you have reason to believe it has been contaminated
- Go into an interior room with few windows, if possible
- Seal all windows, doors and air vents with plastic sheeting and duct tape. Consider measuring and cutting the sheeting in advance to save time
- Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to seal gas so that you create a barrier between yourself and any contamination

Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should watch TV, listen to the radio, or check the internet often for official news and instructions as they become available.

GETTING AWAY:

There may be conditions under which you will decide to get away, or there may be situations when you are ordered to leave. Plan how you will assemble your family and anticipate where you will go. Choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in an emergency.

CREATE AN EVACUATION PLAN:

- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood
- If you have a car, keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case you need to evacuate
- Become familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area
- If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if you have to
- Take your emergency supply kit unless you have reason to believe it has been contaminated
- Lock the door behind you
- Take your pets with you, but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters. Plan how you will care for your pets in an emergency

IF TIME ALLOWS:

- Call or email the “out-of-state” contact in you family communications plan
- Tell them where you are going
- If there is damage to your home and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas, and electricity before leaving
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going
- Check with neighbors who may need a ride

LEARN HOW AND WHEN TO TURN OFF UTILITIES:

If there is damage to your home or you are instructed to turn off your utilities:

- Locate the electric, gas, and water shut-off valves
- Keep necessary tools near gas and water shut-off valves
- Teach family members how to turn off utilities

If you turn the gas off, a professional must turn it back on. Do not attempt to do this yourself.

PLAN FOR YOUR PETS:

Pets should not be left behind, but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters. Plan how you will care for your pets in an emergency.



EVACUATION SHELTER

Plan to Evacuate:

Many kinds of emergencies can cause you to have to evacuate. In some cases, you may have a day or two to prepare while other situations might call for an immediate evacuation. Planning is vital to making sure that you can evacuate quickly and safely no matter what the circumstances.

Before an Evacuation:

- Learn the types of disasters that are likely in your community and the local emergency, evacuation and shelter plans for each specific disaster.
- [Plan](#) how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate
- Check with local officials about what shelter spaces are available for this year. Coronavirus may have altered your community's plans

If you evacuate to a community shelter, follow the latest guidelines from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) for protecting yourself and your family from possible coronavirus: people over 2-years-old should use a cloth facial covering while at these facilities:

- Be prepared to take cleaning items with you like masks, soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes or general household cleaning supplies to [disinfect surfaces](#)
- Maintain at least 6 feet of space between you and people who aren't in your immediate family

Identify several places you could go in an emergency such as a friend's home in another town or a motel. Choose destinations in different directions so that you have options during an emergency

- If needed, identify a place to stay that will accept [pets](#). Most public shelters allow only service animals
- Be familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area
- Always follow the instructions of local officials and remember that your evacuation route may be on foot depending on the type of disaster
- Come up with a family/household plan to stay in touch in case you become separated; have a meeting place and update it depending on the circumstance
- Assemble supplies that are ready for evacuation. Prepare a "go-bag" you can carry when you evacuate on foot or public transportation and supplies for traveling longer distances if you have a car

If you have a car:

- Keep a full tank of gas if an evacuation seems likely. Keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case of an unexpected need to evacuate. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages. Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.
- Make sure you have a portable [emergency kit in the car](#)

If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if needed. Decide with family, friends or your local emergency management office to see what resources may be available

EVACUATION SHELTER - CONTINUED

During an Evacuation:

- Download the [FEMA app](#) for a list of open shelters during an active disaster in your local area
- Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions
- Take your [emergency supply kit](#)
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather
- Take your pets with you but understand that only service animals may be allowed in public shelters. [Plan how you will care for your pets in an emergency now](#)

If time allows:

- Call or email the out-of-state contact in your [family communications plan](#). Tell them where you are going
- Secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows
- Unplug electrical equipment such as radios, televisions and small appliances. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding. If there is damage to your home and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going
- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a hat
- Check with neighbors who may need a ride

Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts, they may be blocked.

Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas.

After an Evacuation:

- If you evacuated for the storm, check with local officials both where you're staying and back home before you travel
- If you are returning to disaster-affected areas, after significant events prepare for disruptions to daily activities and remember that returning home before storm debris is cleared is dangerous
- Let friends and family know before you leave and when you arrive
- Charge devices and consider getting back-up batteries in case power-outages continue
- Fill up your gas tank and consider downloading a fuel app to check for outages along your route
- Bring supplies such as water and non-perishable food for the car ride
- Avoid downed power or utility lines, they may be live with deadly voltage. Stay away and report them immediately to your power or utility company
- Only use generators outside and away from your home and NEVER run a generator inside a home or garage or connect it to your home's electrical system

SHELTER IN PLACE/ACTIVE SHOOTER

When disaster strikes, it may be safer to stay in your home, place of employment or other location. Learn where to go, what to do, and how long you should shelter-in-place for the hazards in your area. An active shooter is an individual engaged in attempting to kill people in a confined space or populated area. Active shooters typically use firearms and have no pattern to their selection of victims.

TAKE ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES:

- If you see suspicious activity, let an authority know right away
- When you enter buildings take the time to identify two exits and look for places where you could hide. Get in the habit of doing this. It will help you to act quickly if you ever need to
- Map out places to hide. In rooms without windows, behind solid doors with locks, under desks, or behind heavy furniture
- Ask about plans for places you spend a lot of time, including work places, houses of worship and schools
- If you participate in an active shooter drill, talk with your family about what you learned and how to apply it to other locations



First Officers on scene will not stop to help the injured: Their priority is to end the incident as fast as possible. Rescue teams will move in after the first officers and will treat and move the injured to safety.



RUN

- **GET AWAY:** That is your top priority!
- **LEAVE:** Behind any belongings
- **HELP:** Others if you can, but you must escape
- **WARN:** Others to stay away from the area
- **CALL 9-1-1:** When you are safe



HIDE

- **STAY OUT:** Of the shooter's view
- **LOCK AND BLOCK:** Entrances and turn off lights
- Groups of people should **spread out when hiding**
- **TEXT 9-1-1:** and text message others to silently communicate
- **STAY IN PLACE:** Until given the all-clear signal
- **SILENCE ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND MAKE SURE THEY DON'T VIBRATE.** Devices that buzz or ring will bring attention to places of hiding



FIGHT

- **ONLY AS A LAST RESORT!!!**
- **COMMIT TO YOUR ACTIONS:** Fight. Do not hesitate
- **BE PREPARED:** To inflict severe injury to shooter
- **THROW OBJECTS:** Or improvise weapons (staplers, scissors, chairs, etc.)

SHELTER IN PLACE/ACTIVE SHOOTER

AT WORK AND SCHOOL

Like individuals and families, schools, daycare providers, workplaces, neighborhoods and apartment buildings should all have site-specific emergency plans.

Ask about emergency plans at the places where your family spends the most time: work, school, and other places you frequent. If none exist, consider volunteering to help develop one. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance .

NEIGHBORHOODS AND APARMENT BUILDINGS:

A community working together during an emergency makes sense.

- Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together during an emergency
- Find out if anyone has specialized equipment like a power generator, or expertise such as; medical knowledge, that might help during a crisis
- Decide who will check on elderly or disabled neighbors
- Make back-up plans for children in case you cannot get home in an emergency

Sharing plans and communicating in advance is a good strategy.

SCHOOLS AND DAYCARE:

If you are a parent, or guardian of an elderly or disabled adult, make sure schools and daycare providers have emergency response plans.

- Ask how they will communicate with families during a crisis
- Ask if they store adequate food, water and other basic supplies
- Find out if they are prepared to “shelter-in-place” if need be and where they plan to go if they must get away



EMPLOYERS:

If you are an employer, make sure your workplace has a building evacuation plan that is regularly practiced.

- Take a critical look at your heating, ventilation and air conditioning system to determine if it is secure or if it could feasibly be upgraded to better filter potential contaminants and be sure you know how to turn it off if you need to
- Think about what to do if your employees cannot go home
- Make sure you have appropriate supplies on hand

IN A MOVING VEHICLE:

1. If there is an explosion or other factor that makes it difficult to control the vehicle, pull over, stop the car and set the parking brake.
2. If the emergency could impact the physical stability of the roadway, avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, signs and other hazards.
3. If a power line falls on your car you are at risk of electrical shock, stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.
4. Listen to the radio for information and instructions as they become available.

IN HIGH-RISE BUILDING:

1. Note where the closest emergency exit is.
2. Be sure you know another way out in case your first choice is blocked.
3. Take cover against a desk or table if things are falling.
4. Move away from file cabinets, bookshelves or other things that might fall.
5. Face away from windows and glass.
6. Move away from exterior walls.
7. Determine if you should stay put, “shelter-in-place”, or get away.
8. Listen for and follow instructions.
9. Take your emergency supply kit, unless there is reason to believe it has been contaminated.
10. Do not use elevators
11. Stay to the right while going down stairwells to allow emergency workers to come up.



HIGH EFFICIENCY PARTICULATE AIR

CLEAN AIR

Many potential terrorist attacks could send tiny microscopic “junk” into the air. For example, an explosion may release very fine debris that can cause lung damage. A biological attack may release germs that can make you sick if inhaled or absorbed through open cuts. Many of these agents can only hurt you if they get into your body, so think about creating a barrier between yourself and any contamination.

NOSE AND MOUTH PROTECTION

Face masks or dense-weave cotton material, that snugly covers your nose and mouth and is specifically fit for each member of the family. Do whatever you can to make the best fit possible for children.

Be prepared to improvise with what you have on hand to protect your nose, mouth, eyes and cuts in your skin. It is very important that most of the air you breathe come through the mask or cloth and not around it. There are also a variety of face mask readily available in hardware stores that are rated based on how small of a particle it can filter in an industrial setting.

Given the different types of attacks that could occur, there is not one solution for masking. For instance, simple cloth face masks can filter some of the airborne “junk” or germs you might breathe into your body, but will probably not protect you from chemical gases. Still, something over your nose and mouth in an emergency is better than nothing. Limiting how many foreign particles get into your body may impact whether or not you get sick or develop disease.

There are circumstances when staying put and creating a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside, a process known as “shelter-in-place,” is a matter of survival. You use these things to tape up windows, doors and air vents if you need to seal off a room from outside contamination. Consider precutting and labeling these materials. Anything you can do in advance will save time when it counts.

Use available information to assess the situation. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you can use these things to tape up windows, doors and air vents if you need to seal off a room.

OTHER BARRIERS

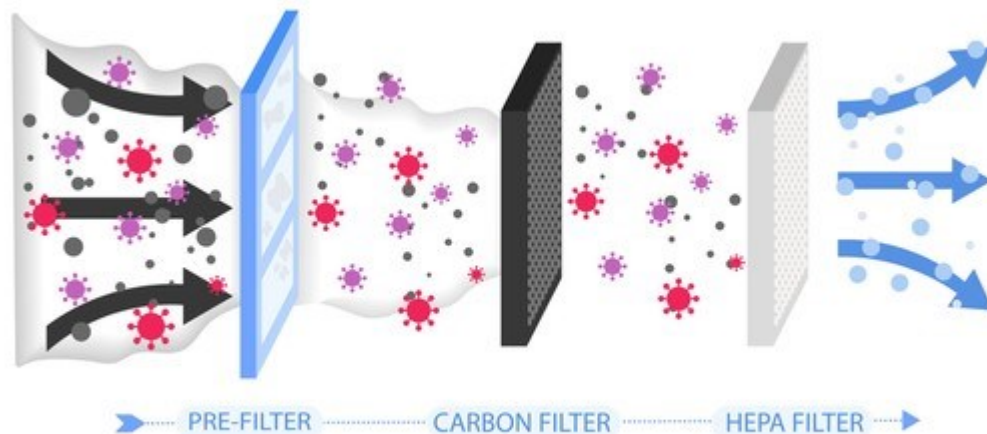
- Heavy weight plastic garbage bags or plastic sheeting
- Duct tape
- Scissors

HEPA (HIGH EFFICIENCY PARTICULATE AIR FILTRATION) FILTER FANS CONT.

Once you have sealed a room with plastic sheeting and duct tape, you may have created a barrier better between you and any contaminants that may be outside. However, no seal is perfect and some leakage is likely. You may also find yourself in a space that is already contaminated to some degree.

Consider a portable air purifier, with a HEPA filter, to help remove contaminants from the room where you are sheltering. These highly efficient filters have small sieves that can capture very tiny particles, including some biological agents. Once trapped within a HEPA filter, contaminants cannot get into your body and make you sick. While these filters are excellent at filtering dander, dust, mold, smoke, biological agents, and other contaminants, they will not stop chemical gases.

Some people, particularly those with severe allergies and asthma, use HEPA filters in masks and portable air purifiers in larger homes or industrial models to continuously filter the air.



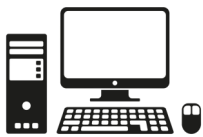
HIGH EFFICIENCY PARTICULATE AIR - CONT.

STATE OF TEXAS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE REGISTRY (STEAR)

The State of Texas offers the option to register with the STEAR program, a free registry that provides local emergency management planners and responders with information related to your needs during an emergency.

Who Should Register?

- People with disabilities
- People who are medically fragile
- People with functional needs such as:
 1. Limited mobility
 2. Communication barriers
 3. Require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
- People who require transportation assistance



Register online at:
stear.tdem.texas.gov



Call 2-1-1 or use your
Video phone relay option
of choice

Registering in STEAR **DOES NOT** guarantee you will receive a specific service during emergencies.





FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations.

Out of Town Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fill out the following information for each family member and keep it up to date:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Important Medical Info: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Important Medical Info: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Important Medical Info: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Important Medical Info: _____

Where to go in an emergency. Write down where your family spends the most time: work, school and other places you frequent. Schools, daycare providers, workplaces, and apartment buildings should all have a site-specific emergency plan.

Home:

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____

Regional Meeting Place: _____

School:

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Evacuation Location: _____

School:

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Evacuation Location: _____

School:

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Evacuation Location: _____

Work:

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Evacuation Location: _____

School:

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Evacuation Location: _____

Other place you frequent:

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Evacuation Location: _____

Other place you frequent:

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Evacuation Location: _____

Important Information	Name	Telephone Number	Policy #
Doctor(s):			
Other:			
Pharmacist:			
Medical Insurance:			
Homeowner/Rental Insurance			
Veterinarian/Kennel (for pets):			

Edinburg Fire Department/Emergency Management: (956) 383-7691

Edinburg Police Department : (956) 383-7411

City of Edinburg: (956) 388-8204

Public Information Office (956) 388-8900

To download a copy visit: www.cityofedinburg.com

FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN



Stay Ready Edinburg

During Severe Weather



<https://www.facebook.com/CityOfEdinburgGovernment>



CodeRED®

To enroll for emergency notifications log into the city website at
www.cityofedinburg.com



<https://twitter.com/cityofedinburg>

Watch 24/7 news and information on the Edinburg Cable Network, Time Warner Digital Channel 17-12 or 17.12.
The channel is also streamed live on www.cityofedinburg.com

Register for 2-1-1 Transportation Assistance

If you or a relative have special health care needs and live in an evacuation zone, then register early for 2-1-1 Transportation Assistance. Dial 2-1-1 to register on any phone.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL: 9-1-1 or (956) 383-2323

FOR NON-EMERGENCY CALLS OR INFORMATION CALL: 3-1-1

EDINBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT:	(956) 383-7691	EDINBURG HOUSING:	(956) 383-3839
EDINBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT:	(956) 383-7411	SALVATION ARMY:	(956) 682-4131
AMERICAN RED CROSS:	(800) 733-2767	CITY OF EDINBURG:	(956) 388-8204
PALM VALLEY ANIMAL CENTER:	(956) 686-1141		

**EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER: (ACTIVATED ONLY DURING EVENTS)
(956) 316-7800**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WEBSITES:

CITY OF EDINBURG
www.cityofedinburg.com

HIDALGO COUNTY
www.co.hidalgo.tx.us

TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
www.tdem.texas.gov

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
www.fema.gov

INFORMATIONAL LINKS:

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER
www.nhc.noaa.gov

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
www.noaa.gov

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
U.S. Department of Education Readiness & Emergency Management for Schools
www.ed.gov

HEALTH FACILITIES
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
www.hhs.gov/aspr/oepo/hpp/

ALL STATE AGENICES
www.texasonline.com

CONTACT INFORMATION



✓ **PLAN**

✓ **PREPARE**

✓ **ACT**

Edinburg Fire Department
P O Box 1079 ♦ 212 W. McIntyre
Edinburg, Tx 78539

Office: (956) 383-7691 ♦ Fax: (956) 289-1853
www.cityofedinburg.com