

Four Steps to Disaster Planning

1 Find Out What Disasters Could Happen to You

Research what types of disasters are most likely to happen in your area.

Find out about your community's warning signals-what they sound like and what you should do when you hear them.

Learn which radio stations will provide emergency information for your area.

2 Create a Disaster Plan

Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster.

Discuss the types of disasters that could happen and explain what to do in each case.

Make two evacuation plans – one specific to your home and another if your entire neighborhood is affected.

Have an action plan for your pets.

Contact an out of area relative or friend to be your “family contact.” Explain to them their responsibility.

3 Put Your Plan into Action

Post emergency telephone numbers by all telephones.

Teach children how and when to call 911 for help.

Create your home emergency supply kit.

Find safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

Determine the best escape routes from your home – find two ways out of each room.

Make sure you have smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.

Make sure you have a classified and NFPA approved general purpose dry chemical type household fire extinguisher.

Check for adequate insurance coverage.

Take photos or videotape your belongings and your home.

Take a first aid and CPR class.

4 Keeping Your Plan Current

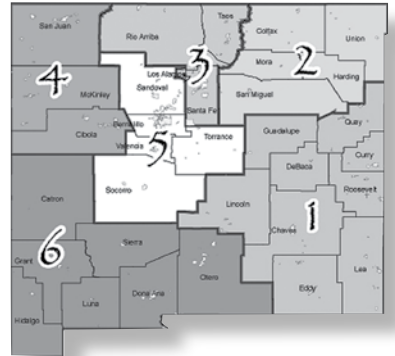
Practice, practice, practice – review your plan once a month.

Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.

Test and recharge your fire extinguishers according to manufacturer's instructions.

Test your smoke detectors monthly – change the batteries every six months, when the time changes.

Replace emergency supply kit stored water and food every six months. ■



911 Practice



Action