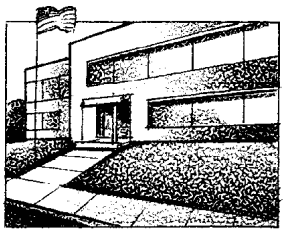
HURRICANE • FLASH FLOOD • FIRE • HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPILL • EARTHQUAKE • TORNADO • WINTER STORM

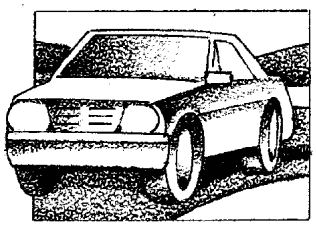
Your Family Disaster Plan

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere—

at work



at school



or in the car.

How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe?

Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services–water, gas, electricity or telephones–were cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away.

Families can–and do–cope with disaster by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Follow the steps listed in this brochure to create your family's disaster plan. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility.

Check for damage in your home. . .

- Use flashlights — do not light matches or turn on electrical switches, if you suspect damage.
- Check for fires, fire hazards and other household hazards.
- Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows, and get everyone outside quickly.
- Shut off any other damaged utilities.
- Clean up spilled medicines,

Remember to. . .

- Confine or secure your pets.
- Call your family contact— do not use the telephone again unless it is a life-threatening emergency.
- Check on your neighbors, especially elderly or disabled persons.
- Make sure you have an adequate water supply in case service is cut off.
- Stay away from downed power lines.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community and Family Preparedness Program and the American Red Cross Community Disaster Education Program are nationwide efforts to help people prepare for disasters of all types. For more information, please contact your local emergency management office and American Red Cross chapter. This brochure and other preparedness materials are available by calling FEMA at 1-800-480-2520, or writing: FEMA, P.O. Box 2012, Jessup, MD 20794-2012.
Publications are also available on the World Wide Web at:
FEMA's Web site: http://www.fema.gov
American Red Cross Web site: http://www.redcross.org

Ask for: *Are You Ready?*, *Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit* and *Food & Water in an Emergency*.

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