

# Get Ready Now

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Here is what you can do now to get ready for a disaster:

- Prepare your home by stocking food and water, flashlights and batteries, a battery-powered radio and other disaster supplies.
- Create a simple family emergency plan. Identify an out-of-state friend or relative who can receive and relay messages, decide on a site where family members can meet, and conduct periodic fire drills.
- Prepare your workplace for a disaster, following the steps above.
- Organize your neighbors for emergencies. Assess what people and material resources are available and develop a plan to help those who are most vulnerable.
- Take emergency training offered by the American Red Cross or by your local fire department or municipality.

## Pre-Disaster Opportunities

Many disaster response and relief agencies will welcome your help even when there is no disaster. American Red Cross and local governments plan year-round for emergency operations and may offer volunteer opportunities. Other agencies engage in periodic planning and may involve volunteers.

## Training

A number of agencies, such as The American Red Cross and The Salvation Army, offer emergency preparedness and related training for those who are interested. There may or may not be a fee.