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Family

Ensure that you are talking with your family about potential disasters and why it's necessary to prepare for them. Be sure to involve each member of your family in the planning process. Practice your plan with the entire family and make sure that they all know what to do in the event of an emergency. By showing them simple steps that can increase their safety, you can help reduce their anxiety about emergencies and improve their knowledge about emergencies

- Make sure everyone knows where to find your disaster supply kit. Keep it in an easily accessible location so that anyone can get it.
- Have a flashlight and a pair of shoes under everyone's bed in case there is an emergency during the night. Often times you can lose power at night and people can become worried. The flashlight will help light the way.
- Plan where to meet after a disaster if your home becomes unsafe. Choose two places, one just outside your home and one outside your neighborhood in case you are told to evacuate. Be sure your vehicles gas tank is always at least half full.
- Determine the best escape routes from your home. Try to identify two escape routes.
- Locate the gas main and other utilities and make sure family members know when and how to turn them off.
- Practice your evacuation routes, Drop, Cover & Hold and Stop, Drop & Roll drills.
- Teach each member of your family how to use a fire extinguisher.
- Create emergency response cards for each of your family members.
- Take into account the special needs of children, seniors or people with disabilities, family members that don't speak English and pets.

