



PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY

It is important to take precautions to protect your property before an emergency situation arises. There are a few things you may want to consider to ensure that your property survives an emergency in the best condition possible.

All personnel should maintain a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards.

You are encouraged to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan and be informed about what might happen.

Preparing Your Home for an Emergency

- Do a home hazard hunt with your family to spot any potential hazards or dangers around the house before an emergency situation.
- Have a qualified technician repair any defective electrical wiring or leaky gas connections.
- Make sure shelves, pictures and mirrors are secure on the wall and away from beds.
- Place large heavy objects on the bottom shelf.
- Secure the water heater by strapping it to structural members.
- Repair any cracks in the ceilings or home foundation.
- Store any flammable liquids (pesticides, oil, oily rags, etc.) away from heat sources and possibly in metal cans to prevent fires.
- Make sure your chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors and gas vents are clean.
- Get a family emergency kit, and determine the best location to store it.
- Make an emergency plan as a family.

Preparations for Specific Emergencies

- Earthquakes
 - Make sure all tall, heavy furniture (e.g., bookcases, dressers) is bolted to wall studs.
 - Install stronger latches on your cabinets.
- Fires
 - Check smoke alarms monthly and change batteries annually.
 - If you use oxygen equipment, make sure the shut-off switch is near your bed or chair.
- Floods
 - Make sure that your fuse box/electric panel is located above average flood level for your area.
 - Try to elevate appliances (e.g., furnace, water heater, washer and dryer) above average flood level for your area.
- Hurricanes
 - Install hurricane shutters.
 - If you do not have hurricane shutters, have enough precut plywood and tape to cover your windows and doors.
 - If you live in mobile housing, secure it to a foundation using chains or strong cables.



ARMY STRONG.

Preparations for Specific Emergencies (continued)

- Wildfires
 - Create a 30-foot safety zone around your home by removing or limiting vegetation.
 - Remove all debris in and around your property.
 - Use fire-resistant siding on your home.
 - Use safety glass for windows and doors if possible.
- Tornados
 - Identify a place in your home to take shelter in case of a tornado. A storm shelter or basement provides the best protection. Otherwise, choose an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
 - Have frequent tornado drills

During an Emergency

- Turn off gas and electricity before you evacuate.
- If a hurricane, flood, thunderstorm or tornado warning has been issued, bring any outdoor furniture inside to prevent it from being moved by wind or flood waters.
- Once you are in a safe place, report to your command if you are military or government civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Ready Army—www.ready.army.mil
- American Red Cross—www.redcross.org
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen.

