



# Property Fact Sheet

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.

Along with practical steps like securing your home and safeguarding valuables, it's worth reviewing your homeowners or renters insurance policy to make sure you have the appropriate coverage to potential risks. Having the right insurance in place can help you recover faster and reduce financial stress if your property is damaged. By combining good preparation with proper coverage, you give your home, and yourself, the best chance of getting through an emergency.

## 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
  - Bolt tall, heavy furniture (e.g., bookcases, dressers) 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.
- 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.
- Tornadoes
  - 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 safe, report to your command and <https://adpaas.army.mil/>.

### ***Where to Find Additional Information***

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/know-your-risk/homeowners/protect-property-brochures>
- Ready Army: <https://www.army.mil/ready>

**It's up to you. Prepare strong. Develop 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. These fact sheets are intended to supplement predetermined plans and policies. Follow state, local, installation and command guidance related to threats and hazards.**



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