

Your
Family Disaster Plan



East Baton Rouge Parish MOHSEP

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?

The routine of our daily lives can be easily disrupted by an emergency or a disaster. Each event can have immediate and lasting effects. People can be seriously hurt or sometimes killed, and damage to property can sometimes run into millions of dollars.

It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or can confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services — water, gas, electricity or telephone — were cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. To minimize the effects of disaster you should always ensure that your family is prepared.

Follow the steps outlined in this brochure to create your family's disaster plan. It is your responsibility to know what to do. This is the best protection for you and your family.

Information in this brochure has been provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross.

East Baton Rouge Parish
Mayor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

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The goal of the East Baton Rouge Mayor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness is to prepare the City-Parish to respond to and recover from the effect of disaster and emergencies.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness has prepared self-help booklets and pamphlets to assist you and your family in developing your personal emergency program. Emergency Management staff members are also available for emergency preparedness presentations to civic groups and other organizations. For more information contact the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness at (225) 389-2100.

Remember, knowing what to do in an emergency is the best protection for you and your family...

IF DISASTER STRIKES

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Remain calm and patient. Put your plan into action.

CHECK FOR INJURIES

Give first aid and get help for seriously injured people.

LISTEN TO YOUR BATTERY POWERED RADIO FOR NEWS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Evacuate, if advised to do so. Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.

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 leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows and get everyone outside quickly.
- Shut off any other damaged utilities.
- Clean up spilled medicines,

bleaches, gasoline and other flammable liquids immediately.

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 adequate water supply in case service is cut off.
- Stay away from downed power lines.

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EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Stock enough supplies to last for at least three days. Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit with items you may need in an evacuation. Find a sturdy, easy to carry container to store them. Try a backpack, duffle bag or covered trash container.



Include:

- A three day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first aid kit that includes your family's prescription medications.
- An extra set of car keys and credit cards, cash or traveler's checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.
- An extra pair of glasses.

Also:

- Keep important family documents in a waterproof container.
- Keep a smaller kit in the trunk of your car.



4 STEPS TO SAFETY

1

Find Out What Could Happen to You

Contact the East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness. Be prepared to take notes.

- Ask about the types of disasters that are most likely to happen. Request information on how to prepare for each.
- Learn about East Baton Rouge Parish's warning systems — CAL. Find out what CAL sounds like and what you should do when you hear him.
- Ask about animal care after a disaster.
- Animals may not be allowed inside emergency shelters because of health regulations.
- Find out how to help elderly or disabled persons, if needed.
- Next find out about the disaster plans at your workplace, your children's school or daycare center and other places where your family spends time.

2

Create a Disaster Plan

Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disasters. Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather and earthquakes to children. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.

- Discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen. Explain what to do in each case.
- Pick two places to meet:
 1. Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
 2. Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
- Make sure that everyone knows the address and the phone number.
- Ask an out-of-state friend to be your "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Other family members should call this person to let them know where they are. Make sure that everyone knows the contact's phone number.
- Discuss what to do in an evacuation. And make plans on how to take care of pets.

Fill out, copy and distribute to all family members

FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

Emergency Meeting Place _____

Meeting Place _____ Phone _____
(outside your neighborhood)

Address _____

Family Contact _____

3

Complete the Checklist

- Post emergency telephone numbers by phones (fire, police, ambulance, etc.)
- Teach children how and when to call 911 or the East Baton Rouge Parish Emergency Medical Services (EMS) number for help — 389-2911.
- Teach your family how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- Check if you have adequate insurance coverage.
- Teach your family how to use the fire extinguisher (ABC type), and show them where it's kept.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Conduct a home hazard hunt.
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Take a Red Cross first aid and CPR class.
- Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room.
- Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

4

Practice and Maintain Your Plan

- Quiz your kids every six months so they remember what to do.
 - Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.

Year	Drill Date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
 - Replace stored water every three months and stored food every six months.
 - Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions.
 - Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

Jan. <input type="checkbox"/>	July <input type="checkbox"/>
Feb. <input type="checkbox"/>	Aug. <input type="checkbox"/>
Mar. <input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. <input type="checkbox"/>
Apr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. <input type="checkbox"/>
May <input type="checkbox"/>	Nov. <input type="checkbox"/>
June <input type="checkbox"/>	Dec. <input type="checkbox"/>
- Change batteries in _____ month each year.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

During a disaster, ordinary objects in your home can cause injury or damage. Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a home hazard. For example, a hot water heater or a bookshelf can fall. Inspect your home at least once a year and fix potential hazards.

To learn more about home fire hazards, contact the East Baton Rouge Parish Fire Department at (225) 354-1400.

EVACUATION

Evacuate immediately if told to do so:

- Listen to your battery-powered radio and follow the instructions of local emergency officials.
- Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Take your Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Lock your home.
- Use travel routes specified by local authorities — don't use shortcuts because certain areas may be dangerous.



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Working together with other residents of your neighborhood can save lives and property. Meet with your neighbors to plan how the neighborhood could work together after a disaster until help arrives. If you're a member of a neighborhood organization, such as a home association or crime watch group, introduce disaster preparedness as a new activity. Know your neighbors' special skills (e.g. medical, technical) and consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as disabled and elderly persons. Make plans for child care in case parents can't get home. Visit www.brgov.com/dept/oep for information about CERT.

- If you're sure you have time:
- Shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving, if instructed to do so.
 - Post a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
 - Make arrangements for your pets.