



1. Get Informed!

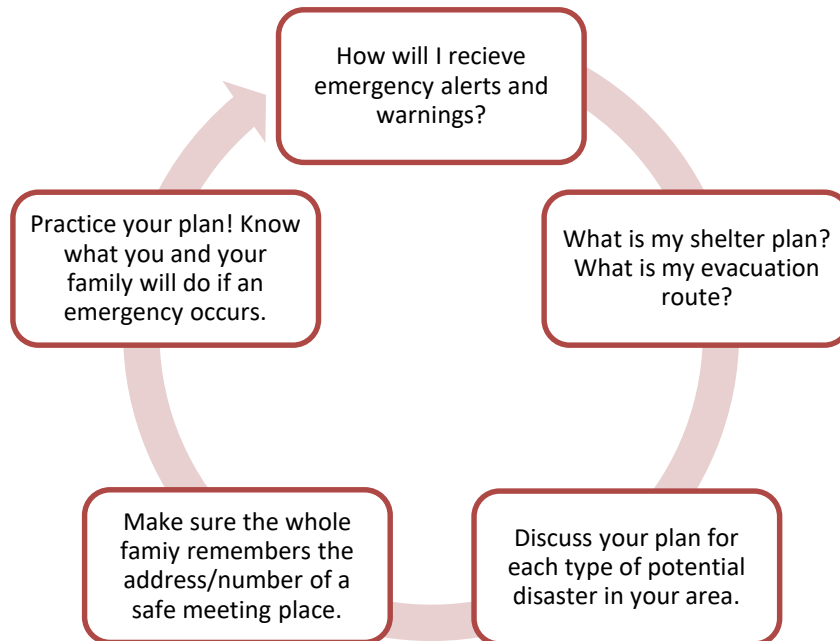
Know what hazards and disasters that could affect your area. **The redstickready.com website is a great resource!** Common hazards affecting our area include hurricanes, tornadoes, hazardous materials, flooding, and the occasional winter weather. The differences in how you should prepare are based on each type of emergency, so do the research and incorporate them into your family emergency plan.



2. Make a Plan!

Create your Family Emergency Plan based on the disasters that could affect your area. Exercise your plans, use common sense and most importantly, take care of yourself and your loved ones. Don't forget to include your pets in your plan.

Visit www.brla.gov/FamilyEmergencyPlan to create your family plan!



Create a Shelter-in-Place Plan.

Sometimes the best thing to do is to remain indoors to protect yourself like during a chemical release or more commonly, severe weather activity.

- Y** Have your emergency preparedness kit on hand and tune in to your local news / radio station for updated information.
- Y** **Don't forget to turn off the A/C or heater.**
- Y** Make sure you have chosen a central room in your home, away from windows.
- Y** During a chemical release, it is important to seal off as much of the house as possible from outside contaminants. Have some sort of plastic sheeting and duct tape to seal off whatever safe room you have chosen.



3. Build a Kit of emergency supplies.

When an emergency happens, you and your family need to be ready to respond. You may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for at least 72 hours. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. We recommend having at least the following items:



Checklist

	A three day supply of water and nonperishable food. Don't forget the can opener!
	A weather radio & flashlights are valuable tools provided you pack extra batteries.
	A first aid kit that includes your family's prescription medication. In the event of a hurricane, check into obtaining an extra prescription in case you are displaced.
	An extra set of car keys and credit cards, cash, or traveler's checks.
	Sanitation and hygiene supplies.
	One change of clothing and footwear per person and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
	Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members
	Keep copies of important family documents in a waterproof container.
	Small toys, games, or books to keep children occupied through power outages and car rides.
	Food and water for your pets.

4. The Buddy System™ can save lives.

Working together with other residents of your neighborhood can save lives and property.



Communicate with your neighbors to plan how the neighborhood can work together before, during, and after a disaster. Consider your elderly neighbors and offer to help them with getting prepared. Check to see that they have family or someone looking out for their well-being. Know what special skills your neighbors might have and how they can best be utilized in an emergency situation. Consider signing your neighborhood association members up for a Community Emergency Response Team training course to get specialized instruction on responding to a crisis.

Above all else, check with your friends, family, and neighbors and ensure everyone is prepared **before** an emergency happens. Remember, don't just be ready, be **Red Stick Ready!**