

# Community Preparedness

Families, friends, and neighbors can support each other in preparing for a natural disaster, like a hurricane. When we plan ahead together, we are all safer.



## We are stronger together.

It's easier to face a disaster when we're not facing it alone. Talk to your family, friends, and neighbors about what you can all do during a disaster to keep each other safe and support those who need help.



## Work together to make a plan.

It's important to be prepared—it's too late to plan when the disaster is already happening.

### Talk about emergency preparedness before a disaster happens.

- Make a plan with your family, friends, and neighbors.
- Know who may need extra help staying safe, like people who live alone, people with medical conditions, older adults, or people who don't have access to reliable transportation.

### Know how to stay in touch before, during, and after an emergency.

- Exchange phone numbers, email addresses, and social media information with your family, friends, and neighbors.
- Keep contact information where you can easily get to it.
- Sign up for emergency alerts and help your family, friends, and neighbors do the same.
- Make a plan for how to get in touch and check on each other after the emergency, even if phone service and utilities are limited.

### Prepare your home, neighborhood, and community for a storm.

- Before the storm, help keep your community safe by securing or clearing your yard of things that could blow around and damage your home, including bikes, lawn furniture, grills, yard waste, and other natural debris.
- Cover windows by using storm shutters or nailing plywood to the outside of window frames to help keep you and your family safe from broken glass.
- Ask neighbors if they need help with moving items indoors or boarding up windows.



### Be prepared to evacuate or shelter in place.

- Talk with family, friends, and neighbors about evacuation routes, know where you'll go, and know who needs help evacuating.
- Make sure you consider pets and livestock in evacuation planning.
- Listen to authorities—they may tell you to stay home or shelter in place if driving conditions are too dangerous.
- Talk to family, friends, and neighbors, and make sure they have a safe place to stay if authorities tell you to shelter in place. Consider sheltering in place together.

### Prepare emergency supplies.

- Help your family, friends, and neighbors put together emergency kits with things like drinking water, food, medicine, first aid supplies, flashlights, and phone chargers before a disaster strikes.
- Don't forget to include food, water, and other supplies for your pets and livestock.
- Ensure everyone has the essentials ready to go.

Together, we can better prepare for when disaster strikes. Help your family, friends, and neighbors stay prepared. Start the conversation today—be ready before a disaster happens.

For more information,  
visit [cdc.gov/hurricanes](https://cdc.gov/hurricanes).

