HOW DO I MAKE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN?

Ready.gov gives four steps: meet your household, assess your needs, write the plan down, and practice it. Choose a meeting spot that is familiar and easy to find, and keep contacts, medical information and meeting places on one page everyone can reach.

THE STEPS

01 Meet with everyone in your household and talk about what could happen where you live.

02 Assess your needs: ages, medications, pets, mobility, and what each person depends on.

03 Document the plan. Ready.gov offers a fillable form for contacts, meeting places and medical information.

04 Pick a meeting spot that is familiar and easy to find.

05 Practice the plan, and review it on a schedule.

THE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Names and phone numbers on paper
- ☐ A meeting place near home and one farther away
- ☐ Medical and medication notes
- ☐ Pet plans
- ☐ A date to practice

How we write it into your plan. In the plans we write, we add a second meeting place outside your neighborhood and a contact who lives outside your area, and we print it all on paper.

Sources: Ready.gov, Make a Plan; Ready.gov, Evacuation. Last reviewed November 17, 2026. General planning information, not medical, legal or financial advice.