

## TAKE ACTION TODAY and bear responsibility for being prepared



### 1 IDENTIFY YOUR RISK

What are the hazards where you live and work? Find out what natural or human caused disasters pose a risk for you. Do you live or work in a flood plain, near a major earthquake fault or in a high fire danger area? Are you prepared for an unexpected human-made disaster that can strike at any time? Does your neighborhood or community have a disaster plan?

- Get the number of your local Office of Emergency Services (OES) or contact your local chapter of the American Red Cross and get informed.
- Check with your insurance company to see if your home is in a high risk area for fire, flood or earthquakes. Make sure your insurance coverage is up-to-date on an annual basis.

### 2 CREATE A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

*Your family needs a plan that tells everyone:*

**Where to meet if you have to evacuate.** Designate a meeting place outside your home where family members can go. Have a backup meeting place in your neighborhood in case your first rendezvous point is inaccessible.

Make sure your children's schools and day-care providers or caregivers have a disaster plan and that they schedule annual "disaster drills" with parents to ensure your children's safety. Call your local OES office to learn of suggested meeting places in your community.

**Who you've identified as the out-of-state friend to be your "family contact"** for everyone to check-in with — it is often easier to call long-distance following a disaster.

**How to get important information in your community** and how to talk to family members should



you become separated. To be fully informed:

- Know what your area's emergency alerting radio station is. Make sure to have a portable radio with extra batteries so your family has access to important information about emergency response efforts in your community.
- Keep a touch-tone phone that does not require plugging into an electric outlet. Include the proper cord that can plug the phone into a home phone jack. After a disaster, cell phones and wireless phones may not be working. If you are able, use your touch-tone phone to call your out-of-town family contact. Try to be brief and to the point when contacting family members or your out-of-state contact. Phone lines are valuable communications channels for emergency response teams.
- If you are in your car, find a safe place to pull over and stay in your car. Turn on the car radio to gain important information about where to go and what to do.

#### How to take care of your family

**pets.** Store food and water for them in your disaster supply kit, keep their tags up-to-date, and call your local OES office to gain information on how and where you can temporarily shelter your pets during and after a disaster.



### 3 PRACTICE YOUR DISASTER PLAN

After you have sat down with your family and written your plan — practice it. Start by having family members meet at a designated spot outside your home — like you would after a fire or after the shaking stops. Know how to respond in the event of any disaster — whether to stay put indoors, or whether to evacuate your neighborhood by car. If your family needs to evacuate, know the proper evacuation procedures and routes as determined by your local OES office.

### 4 BUILD DISASTER SUPPLY KIT FOR YOUR HOME AND CAR

If you are stranded in your car or have to be self sufficient at home until help arrives, you need to have a disaster kit with you. Your home disaster supply kit should have at least the following items and be kept in containers that can be easily carried or moved such as backpacks, plastic

