

# MAKE A PLAN

It is important to ensure that the entire family is prepared and informed in the event of a disaster or emergency. You may not always be together when these events take place and should have plans for making sure you are able to contact and find one another.



- Determine the best ways to evacuate your home in case of an emergency such as a house fire.
- Make sure everyone in the house knows the location of your emergency kit and water supply.
- Establish a safe place for your family to meet.
- Include a plan for evacuating your pets.
- Practice your evacuation plan frequently.
- If you can't evacuate your home, prepare to be self-sufficient in your home for 72 hours (or seven to 10 days in a health emergency)
- If a member of your family has special needs that would require extra assistance, work those details into your family emergency plan and emergency kit.

## Know your neighbourhood

- Work with your neighbours to identify people who may need extra help during an emergency, or who you can turn to for help.
- Identify your community's emergency plan.
- Identify your community's evacuation routes.
- Identify where emergency shelters are located.
- In the event of a disaster, listen to local radio and television. If local officials ask you to evacuate your neighbourhood, follow the routes and go to the location specified by officials. Do not take shortcuts as they could take you to a blocked or dangerous area.

## Establish an out-of-town emergency contact

- Plan for each family member to call or e-mail the same out-of-town contact person in case of an emergency.
- Choose an out-of-town contact that lives far enough away that he or she will not have been affected by the same event.
- Ensure that the designated person knows they are your family contact.
- Ensure that you and your family members know or carry the number and e-mail address.