

## MAKE A PLAN

Meet with your family or household members.

Discuss how to prepare and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play.

Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.

If a family member is in the military, plan how you would respond if they were deployed.

### Plan what to do in case you are separated during an emergency

#### Choose two places to meet:

- Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire
- Outside your neighborhood, in case you cannot return home or are asked to evacuate

#### Choose an out-of-area emergency contact person:

It may be easier to text or call long distance if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service. Everyone should have emergency contact information in writing or programmed into their cell phones.

### Plan what to do if you have to evacuate

**Decide where you would go and what route you would take to get there.** You may choose to go to a hotel, stay with friends or relatives in a safe location or go to an evacuation shelter if necessary.

**Practice** evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on your map in case roads are impassable.

**Plan ahead for your pets.** Make pre-arrangements with animal shelters or kennels for an emergency. Some shelters will have pet-friendly space adjacent to emergency shelters. If you plan to evacuate with your pet, it is critical to have a crate and other emergency supplies with your pet. If the shelter does not have pet-friendly spaces, you can keep the pet in your vehicle. Another option would be to make pre-arrangements with animal shelters or kennels to look after your pet during an emergency.

### Emergency Contact Cards for All Household Members

- Print one card for each family member.
- Write the contact information for each household member, such as work, school and cell phone numbers.
- Fold the card so it fits in your pocket, wallet or purse.
- Carry the card with you so it is available in

### Let Your Family Know You're Safe

Tell your loved ones about the American Red Cross Safe and Well web site available through [www.RedCross.org](http://www.RedCross.org). This Internet-based tool should be integrated into your emergency communications plan. People within a disaster-affected area can register themselves as "safe and well" and concerned family and friends who know the person's phone number or address can search for messages posted by those who self-register. If you don't have Internet access, call **1-866-GET-INFO** to register yourself and your family.