



12 WAYS TO PREPARE



<input type="checkbox"/>  Sign up for Alerts and Warnings	<input type="checkbox"/>  Make a Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>  Save for a Rainy Day	<input type="checkbox"/>  Practice Emergency Drills	<input type="checkbox"/>  Test Family Communication Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>  Safeguard Documents
<input type="checkbox"/>  Plan with Neighbors	<input type="checkbox"/>  Make Your Home Safer	<input type="checkbox"/>  Know Evacuation Routes	<input type="checkbox"/>  Assemble or Update Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>  Get Involved in Your Community	<input type="checkbox"/>  Document and Insure Property

Tips for Preparedness

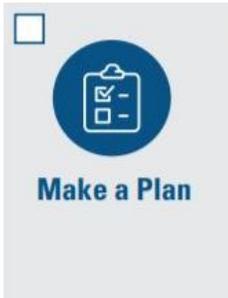
Xylem is focused on solving water to help communities in need. Our work is about creating social value as an integral part of our commitment to solve water. Through our work with our nonprofit partners Mercy Corps, Americares, Planet Water Foundation, and our own Humanitarian Global Disaster Response Program, we are helping disaster impacted communities recover, rebuild, and become more resilient. Community-based disaster response is a core commitment to achieving our 2025 Sustainability Goals.

Through Xylem Watermark, it is a priority to ensure that our employees and stakeholders are prepared to mitigate risk to themselves and the communities in which they live. Follow these tips and utilize the resources linked within this guide to prepare for disasters.

Plan Ahead



Photo: Mercy Corps



Make a Plan

Make a plan and practice safety protocols for the disasters you are most at risk for. First, conduct a needs assessment to determine the disasters that are most likely to affect your community. Prioritize preparation for these scenarios then follow 4 key steps to make your plan.



Practice
Emergency
Drills

1. Discuss these questions with your family:
 - How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
 - What is my shelter plan?
 - What is my evacuation route?
 - What is my family/household communication plan?
2. Consider the specific needs of your household
 - Consider the ages and abilities of those in your family
 - Dietary and medical needs
 - Needs of pets and animals
3. Fill out a household emergency plan
 - Make sure everyone in your family has an accessible copy of this plan
4. Practice this plan with your family & conduct drills for different scenarios

Use the **Risk Assessment document** [found here](#) to complete these steps

Visit [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) to read more about **creating and practicing a plan**.

Review important health & safety documentation that can help you prepare for the aftermath of a disaster:

- [cdc.gov/disasters](https://www.cdc.gov/disasters)
- [who.int/emergencies](https://www.who.int/emergencies)



Evacuation Planning



There are a variety of disaster situations that may require an evacuation. You should always listen to local authorities and follow their evacuation alerts and guidance.

To prepare yourself for an immediate evacuation you should:

- Familiarize yourself with local shelters plans
- Identify several places out of town where you would go in the event of an emergency (friends, family, etc)
- Develop a family communication and reunification plan
- Plan how you will evacuate, whether by car or public transit and familiarize yourself with alternative transportation routes
 - If you will drive, be sure to always have at least half a tank of gas in your car
- Have a disaster supply kit and “go-bag” prepared that you can easily grab and carry

During an evacuation you should:

- Take your emergency supply kit, but leave behind unnecessary items
- Leave with enough time to avoid being trapped by weather or other hazards
- Listen to the radio or mobile alerts for recommended evacuation routes.
- If you have enough time:
 - Check with neighbors to see if they need assistance
 - Secure your home, locking doors and windows
 - Unplug all electronics. Leave fridges and freezers running unless there is risk of flooding.
 - Communicate your evacuation plan to friends or family and leave a note

For additional information and resources on evacuation planning, visit

- [ready.gov/evacuating-yourself-and-your-family](https://www.ready.gov/evacuating-yourself-and-your-family)
- [habitat.org/impact/our-work/disaster-response/](https://www.habitat.org/impact/our-work/disaster-response/)



Stay Informed & Communicate



During and following an emergency, it is crucial to be informed. Having access to the most updated information can keep you out of harms way. **Download a disaster alert app** to stay informed about emergencies & disasters that may be occurring close to you or to find out ways you can assist when disaster strikes.

Suggested Apps:

- [Disaster Alert by PDC Global](#)
- [FEMA App \(USA Specific\)](#)
- [Red Cross Mobile Apps](#)



Your family may not be together when disaster strikes. If you have children, it is vital that they know what to do and how to reach you in an emergency.

- Work together to plan & prepare
 - Involve your kids in the planning process and assemble your disaster preparedness kit with them so they know what is in it and where to find it.
- Role play
 - As a family, practice what you will do and say in an emergency. Hold drills for fires and other disasters within your home.

Learn more at [ready.gov/kids/parents](https://www.ready.gov/kids/parents).



Your neighbors should be a part of your disaster planning. Inform your neighbors about your disaster preparedness and evacuation plans, and ask them about theirs.

Check with your neighbors to make sure they have the supplies they need and important tools such as fire extinguishers and alarm systems. If your whole community is more prepared, it is safer.

Safety & Supplies



Consider the specific risks that face your household or office, and mitigate these risks. You can take simple steps that will reduce harm and damage to property if disaster does strike.

If your home....

- is at risk for hurricanes, install storm shutters.
- is at risk for earthquakes, remove hazardous ceiling hangings and secure heavy furniture to the walls
- is at risk for tornadoes, clear space in a room or closet without windows to act as your safe room

Learn even more ways to **make your home safer**:

- [protectyourhome.com/](https://www.protectyourhome.com/)
- [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)



A disaster preparedness kit is a collection of household items that you may need in the event of an emergency. Keep this kit fully stocked and updated at all times to fit your family's needs.

- Store enough supplies to last your family 72+ hours
- Replace perishables as they expire
- Use sealable plastic bags to hold smaller items, and pack all items into a duffel bag or plastic container that is easy to carry
- Store in a cool, dry place in your home and office

For a full list of supplies to include in your kit, use the [**Xylem Watermark Build a Disaster Preparedness Kit Guide**](#)

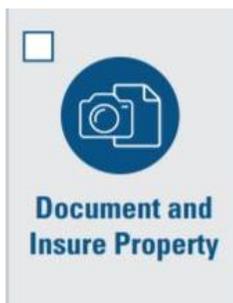


Financial Preparedness



Collect, copy, and organize your important financial, insurance, and medical records. These items can be critical for accessing the help you need, whether financial, medical or otherwise, following a disaster.

- Photo IDs
- Birth Certificates
- Social Security Cards
- Pet ID Tags
- Housing payments
- Insurance policies
- Tax statements
- Health insurance information, immunization records, list of medications
- Contact info for bank, insurance agent, health professionals and emergency contacts



Obtain property, health and life insurance if possible. If your home is at risk of flooding, consider flood insurance as an added step of preparedness.

If inclement weather or a disaster is imminent, and you are forced to evacuate, photograph and document the current state of your property for insurance purposes.



Save money in an emergency savings account in order to cover damages or supplies. Cash, especially small bills, can be important to have following a disaster when ATM's and credit card machines may not be working and you need to purchase food or fuel.

- If you already save your change, you should regularly bring it to the bank and convert it to small bills.
- Keep cash in or near your disaster preparedness kit for quick access

For additional information about financial preparation review these resources:

- forbes.com/
- ready.gov/financial-preparedness

Community Engagement



Meet with friends, neighbors, and colleagues and ensure that everyone is informed and prepared to act in disaster scenarios.

- Plan an education session and present these tips
- Perform a community-wide needs assessment
- Volunteer to make your community more disaster resilient by planting trees, preserving wetlands, piling sandbags, etc.
- Organize a training with Red Cross or another organization and get certified in First Aid, CPR, Disaster Response, etc.

Sources & Appendix

- US Department of Homeland Security
 - Ready Campaign: ready.gov
 - FEMA: Fema.gov
- Red Cross
 - [Disasters and Financial Planning](#)
 - [International Committee of the Red Cross](#)
- US Climate Resilience Toolkit
 - [Steps to Resilience](#)
- Centers for Disease Control
 - [Natural Disasters and Severe Weather](#)
- World Health Organization
 - [WHO in Emergencies](#)

