

It's National Preparedness Month, and the American Red Cross wants households across the country to come up with a game plan to make sure their household is ready for the next emergency or disaster.

By definition, emergencies are an unforeseen combination of circumstances that call for immediate action. They happen quickly, sometimes giving someone only minutes to react.

### **Get prepared**

Planning ahead can help keep everyone safe. During National Preparedness Month, families can take some steps to be ready should disaster strike. Each household should make a plan, build a kit and be informed.

Here's why: Disasters strike suddenly and often without warning. If people don't already have a plan, they may not have time to make one. Think about:

—If the home was on fire, how would residents get out? What if one exit was blocked?

—If an emergency happened at school, how would people get in touch with their children? Where would they pick him or her up?

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## September is National Preparedness Month—Now's the time to get ready

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