



FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

BE PREPARED: **Create Your Family Emergency Plan**

So far, we've suggested apps that warn you of imminent disasters, and described where to buy emergency preparedness kits or what to include if you're creating your own.

This month's topic: ***creating a Family Emergency Plan.***

For a deeper dive, check out the [ReadyL.A. County site](#). And here's [a handy online form](#) that can be filled in and emailed back to you as a PDF. (Look for more info related planning for the four-legged members of your family in a future Update.)

Gather with your family to confirm:

- Safe spots in each room where you could take cover – sturdy tables, desks, interior walls.
- Escape routes from your home, including alternate ways out of each room.
- Two family meeting places – one in your neighborhood and another outside to meet at in event of an evacuation.
- The location of shutoff valves and how to turn off your water, gas and electricity.
- Emergency policies of schools and adult-care centers, including shelters, supplies and transportation. Notify schools who will pick up your children if you're unable to get there.
- An emergency contact list with phone numbers and emails. Store on your cell phone and make copies for your house, car and emergency kit.
 - Create a text message group so you can communicate quickly.
- An out-of-state contact you can call after a disaster (it may be easier to make an out of state call when phone lines are jammed). Everyone can check in with the out-of-state contact.
 - Texts are more likely to succeed than calls and leaves lines open for 9-1-1 calls.
- Who will take your important documents – including medical information/insurance for all family members -- if you have to evacuate. Upload them to the cloud and store hard-copies in [a fire-safe pouch](#) or in a sealed plastic bag in the freezer.

Helping children

Have age-appropriate conversations about disasters and make sure kids know family meeting locations. Make sure your children know:

- Their home address and family phone numbers
- How and when to call 9-1-1
- What to do if the smoke or carbon monoxide alarm goes off

Importantly – test your family emergency plan at least once/year and update it as needed.

Have a question about emergency preparedness? Interested in becoming a block captain to help roll out the [Ready Your Los Angeles Neighborhood \(RYLAN\)](#) program? Contact [Shawn Sites](#).

“Better to have, and not need, than to need, and not have.”-- Franz Kafka



