



# EMERGENCY PLANNING 101

Use these tips to help prepare ahead of an expected natural disaster or significant weather event.



## Preparing Your Home

Taking the time to prepare ahead of time can help keep your family safe, as well as reducing possible damage to your property.<sup>1</sup>

### Outside

- Trim any branches that could fall on your home. Move any outdoor furniture and potted plants to a place that they won't become airborne.
- If you have a generator, test it ahead of time. Have enough fuel for extended use.
- Check windows to make sure they are closed or prepared for severe weather. Check for loose shutters.
- To avoid possible flooding, make sure downspout extensions are properly attached to drainpipes.

### Inside

- Have a flashlight (and extra batteries) for each member of the family and in each room.
- Charge cell phones and have extra chargers on hand.
- Have water and non-perishable food in case the power goes out.
- Have a room set up with supplies (food, water, blankets) that your family can shelter in if needed.
- Pack a week's worth of clothing for each family member.



## Preparing Your Vehicle

In case of an unexpected emergency (such as a breakdown) or an anticipated one (such as an evacuation due to a weather emergency) it's important to make sure your car is in good shape and that you have the right supplies on hand.

### Basics to Always Have in Your Car

- First aid kit.
- Blanket.
- Non-perishable snacks.
- Cell phone charger.
- Bottled water.
- Window hammer.
- Flares or reflective triangle.
- Jumper cables.
- Spare tire.

### If You Live in a Cold Climate

- Cat litter or sand (for extra traction).
- Shovel.
- Ice scraper/brush.
- Antifreeze.
- Extra gloves.

### During an Evacuation

- Full tank of gas.
- Check oil and wiper fluid.