

# Have You Planned Ahead?

As USPHS officers, we should all take action to be prepared for unexpected natural disasters.

## Family and Friends

• Be aware of disasters that could affect your area by reviewing disaster history data (tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires):

- <https://www.fema.gov/data-visualization-disaster-declarations-states-and-counties>

• Stay informed with reliable emergency alerts:

- Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) - <https://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system>
- Wireless Emergency Alerts - <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/82630>
- NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) All Hazards - <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>

• Make an evacuation and shelter plan:

- Map out your evacuation route in advance and practice with your friends and family
- Have a communication plan in place – your family and friends are unlikely to be in same location when a disaster strikes. <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>
- Know what types of shelters are available in your area and when you should seek shelter or stay put

• Insurance and Property Documentation

- Ensure your insurance coverage is appropriate for the disaster risks in your area
- Inventory property with videos or photos - [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1459539524645-8f0610597e25f47f56ab6e1b0a6413eb/Americas\\_PrepAtHon\\_Document\\_Insure\\_Property\\_v02\\_508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1459539524645-8f0610597e25f47f56ab6e1b0a6413eb/Americas_PrepAtHon_Document_Insure_Property_v02_508.pdf)

## Neighbors and Community

• Be neighborly

- After disaster strikes, 46% of individuals will rely on their neighbors for up to 72 hours

• First one on the scene

- The first few minutes in a life-threatening emergency are the most critical
- Be prepared to help until emergency responders arrive. Further educate yourself with web-based training - <https://community.fema.gov/until-help-arrives>

• Community preparedness

- FEMA interactive web-based course – IS-909 Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone - <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-909>

