



### **Natural Disaster Scenario and Drills- evaluating an Emergency Plan.**

1. With your family or household members, discuss how to prepare and respond to the types of emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play.
2. Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and how you will work together as a team.
3. Practice, practice, practice as many elements of your plan as possible.

Identify the threats and know your local systems for communication- texts, sirens, sign up if not on any local 911 or emergency notifications. Sign up!

### **Plan for the emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live**

- Be familiar with natural disaster risks in your community.
- Consider how you will respond to emergencies that can happen anywhere, such as home fires and floods.
- Consider how you will respond to emergencies that are unique to your region, such as volcanoes, tsunamis or tornadoes.
- Think about emergencies that may require your family to shelter in place (such as a winter storm), vs. emergencies that may require evacuation (such as a hurricane).
- Consult the Red Cross Emergency Resource Library for tips on preparing for, responding to, and recovering from specific disasters. FEMA and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) are also informative.

### **Family/Friend Communication and Notification, Evacuation Meeting Point.**

- Choose a meeting point outside your neighborhood where family members can gather if separated.
- Create a family communications plan, including an out-of-state contact person who can help reunite separated family members.
- Keep a list of important emergency contacts and post it on your refrigerator.
- Remember the NC flood and how we wanted to hear from friends/family. Many were cut off and took a long time to get word out. Some evacuated.
- Amber Alcoser shared about family flashflood and how we lost numbers and had to depend on others.

### **Name some threats: Example- Rocky Mountains- Snow, Road Closures, Fires, Power outages, Flash Floods**

- Flood and flash floods, know your escape routes
- Tsunami- know your routes to higher ground
- Hurricane- wind, flood, tornadoes, surge
- Fire- pay attention, have your essentials and papers in a safe.
- Road closure- know your alternative routes. Bag in a car?
- Earthquake- where to cover. Turn off power, gas immediately after.
- Power outages, wind, storms or black outs

Practice evacuating your home twice a year. Grab your emergency kit, just like you will in a real emergency, then drive your planned evacuation route. Plot alternate routes on your map in case roads are impassable. Make sure you have locations and maps saved on devices such as cell phones and GPS AND on paper.

This information was compiled from the Red Cross website and personal experiences by Amber Alcoser, Central Region Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.