

Emergencies Do Happen: What you and your neighbors need to know to prepare together

Will you know what to do in case of an emergency?

When you live in Los Angeles County, you know emergencies do happen. They can be fires, wind storms, earthquakes or floods. Nobody can predict the next one, but you can be ready.

How can I prepare?

You can start today by taking the following 3 simple steps. Although these are summaries to each step, you can learn more about preparing for an emergency and download useful tools by visiting <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/hea/library/topics/eprp/>

Step 1: Know your neighbors

No matter what type of emergency you may face or where you live, it's important to know your neighbors. Right after an emergency, response teams may be delayed and your neighbors can be the first ones who can offer you help. They know where you live and will have a better idea of what you might need.

It may be hard to get to know them with everyone's busy schedules, but it's important. You can start by saying a simple "hello." It's a small step, but connecting with your neighbors could save your life someday.

Step 2: Plan together

You've met your neighbors. Now it's time to put together an emergency plan. Working together to be prepared will help create a better plan. You can start by organizing and announcing a neighborhood meeting. You can use existing tools to help you create a neighborhood emergency plan: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eprp/prepare.htm>

You will also need to make a household plan. This gets everyone in the household involved to know what to do in an emergency. You can also prepare an Emergency Kit that meets the needs of your family, to get started, visit:

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eprp/household_emergency_kit.html

Step 3: Be ready

You've met your neighbors and made a plan. Remember these steps to stay prepared:

Yearly - Every year practice evacuation of your home and neighborhood. Also, check and update neighborhood maps.

Twice a year - Check and confirm contact lists and keep Emergency Kits up-to-date.



Key Messages

Emergencies do happen in LA County. Preparing with your family and neighbors increases your chances of survival in case of an emergency.

Know your neighbors

- Start with a simple "hello"
- They may be the first to help in an emergency

Plan together

- Organize a neighborhood meeting
- Create a neighborhood plan with your neighbors
- Create a household plan with your family

Be ready

- Practice evacuation drills
- Keep emergency kits up-to-date

For more information:

Los Angeles County,
Department of Public Health
publichealth.lacounty.gov/eprp

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