

Home Emergency Plans

There are many things that individuals, families or shared households can do to prepare for an emergency.

You may want to find out about what emergency plans exist for your workplace or your children's school.

A good idea is to develop your own Home Emergency Plan. You can make coping with an emergency much easier by preparing in advance.

Much of the following advice is common sense but will help you to prepare your Plan:

- Keep emergency telephone numbers by your telephone and in your wallet / purse.
- Teach your children how and when to call the Emergency Services (999).
- Install smoke detectors at suitable locations throughout your house, especially near bedrooms, and check regularly to see if they are working.
- Make sure everyone knows how to get out in the event of a fire.
- Identify an emergency evacuation route in case the front, or back, doors cannot be used.
- Make sure everyone knows how to turn off gas, electricity and water supplies.
- Undertake a home risk assessment including the garage and shed. Ensure the removal of potential hazards, eg, faulty electrical equipment, poorly labelled weed killer and acetylene gas cylinders.
- Check that your insurance cover is adequate for your family, home and any contents. Keep brief details of your insurance and company telephone numbers with your contact list.
- Identify several places to meet if an emergency occurs: first, immediately close to your home in the case of a localised incident; second, 2 specific locations away from your neighbourhood in the event of a major evacuation.