

Community-based Disaster Preparedness Worldwide

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Hazards Include:

Earthquakes, Floods, Fires, Wind / Water / Dust / Sand Storms, Epidemics, Cyclones, Typhoons and Hurricanes, Landslides, Volcanoes, Avalanches, Heat and Cold Waves, Lifeline Disruption, Nuclear, Biological & Chemical Releases.

There are many reasons around the world why people may have to evacuate, or shelter-in-place.



Organizations

Community-based and non-governmental organizations, teaching and learning institutions, along with local and national governments around the world, are collaborating to reach the public in order to build a culture of safety starting at the individual and community levels and working upwards. Maintaining emergency supplies, including bags or kits to be taken in case of evacuation (“go bags”), and practicing safety drills are two important ways to prepare.



Evacuation (“Go”) Bags



Maintaining emergency evacuation supplies is an important way to improve coping ability and to reduce suffering following a disaster.

Emergency supplies can be stored and used in rotation at home, school, and work and within the community. “Go bags” are a way to keep an adequate quantity of emergency supplies ready if evacuation is necessary. Every bag contains water and some high-energy food. Many other items, common and more personal will help to reduce injuries, maintain health and improve each individual’s and family’s coping ability—as well the ability to help others.

Drills

Practicing disaster drills (e.g. fire, earthquake, flood, storm) includes:

- Talking with your household, family, community, schools and workplaces.
- Learning warning signs and signals for possible events.
- Thinking through different scenarios and mentally rehearsing for them.
- Planning meeting places, safe havens, and evacuation routes and not relying on communications technologies including mobile phones.
- Practicing building evacuation under different circumstances (e.g. at night without electricity).
- Practicing special skills (e.g. drop, cover, and hold for earthquakes or putting on lifejackets for water evacuation) and knowing what not to do.

