

# !! Be Ready Saginaw County!!

## June's Objective: CREATE A PLAN

Disasters happen anytime and anywhere without warning.  
 When disaster strikes it is easier to cope when you are prepared.  
 !! Be Ready Saginaw County!! recommends creating a family disaster plan.

### MAKE YOUR PLAN

**TALK:** Discuss with your family the types of disasters that are most likely to happen where you live. Work as a team, establish responsibilities for each member of the household. Determine alternatives if someone is absent.

**PLAN:** Pick two places to meet after a disaster.

1. Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
2. Outside your neighborhood, in case you can't return home or are asked to evacuate the area.
3. Ask a friend or relative that lives out of the area to be your family contact. After a disaster it's often easier to call long distance from a landline telephone.
4. Discuss how to take care of your pets

**LEARN:** Each adult in the household should know how to turn off utilities such as electricity, water and gas. Learn how to use your home's fire extinguisher.

**CHECK SUPPLIES:** Make sure your emergency supply kits are in order. Check expiration dates on food and make sure you have plenty of water.

**TELL:** Household members should know where the emergency contact information is kept. Make copies for everyone to carry, keep one copy in the emergency supply kit. Be sure to include an out-of-town contact.

#### Tips for success...

- Write down your family's disaster plan and post it in a prominent place.
- Hold household fire drills.
- Have everyone in the family create a list of personal items they would take with them if they had 10 minutes to evacuate.
- Keep your cell phone charged.

### PRACTICE YOUR PLAN

**QUIZ:** Every six months quiz your family members on what to do in an emergency. Make sure children know how and when to dial 911 for help.

**CONDUCT:** Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.

**REPLACE:** Check expiration dates on stored food and water every six months. Make sure clothing in your kit is weather appropriate.

**TEST:** Test and recharge your fire extinguishers according to manufacturer's instructions.

**TEST:** Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

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Change Batteries \_\_\_\_\_ (month) each year.

Fill out, copy and distribute to all family members.

**Pocket Emergency Plan**

Emergency meeting place: (just outside your home)  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Place: (outside your neighborhood)  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Contact \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_



**BE WISE. BE WELL. BE READY.**