



Protecting Your Property

It is important to take precautions to protect your property before an emergency situation arises. There are a few things you may want to consider to ensure that your property survives an emergency in the best condition possible.

Preparing Your Home for an Emergency

- **Stay informed** of potential hazards.
- Do a home hazard hunt with your family to spot any potential hazards or dangers around the house.
- Make an **emergency plan**.
- Build a family **emergency kit**.
- Repair any defective electrical wiring or leaky gas connections.
- Make sure shelves, pictures, and mirrors are securely on the wall and away from beds.
- Place large heavy objects on the bottom shelf.
- Secure the water heater by strapping it to wall studs.
- Repair any cracks in the ceilings or home foundation.
- Store any flammable liquids (pesticides, oil, oily rags, etc.) away from heat sources and possibly in metal cans to prevent fires.
- Make sure your chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors, and gas vents are clean.

Preparations for Specific Emergencies

- Earthquakes
 - » Make sure all tall, heavy furniture (e.g., bookcases, dressers) is bolted to wall studs.
 - » Install stronger latches on your cabinets.
- Fires
 - » Check smoke alarms monthly and change batteries annually.
- Floods
 - » Make sure that your fuse box/ electric panel is located above average flood level for your area.
 - » Try to elevate appliances (e.g., furnace, water heater, washer and dryer) above average flood level for your area.
- Hurricanes
 - » Install hurricane shutters.
 - » If you do not have hurricane shutters, have enough precut plywood and tape to cover your windows and doors.
 - » If you live in mobile housing, secure it to a foundation using chains or strong cables.
- Wildfires
 - » Create a 30-foot safety zone around your home by removing or limiting vegetation.
 - » Remove all debris in and around your property.
 - » Use fire-resistant siding on your home.
 - » Use safety glass for windows and doors if possible.

During an Emergency

- Turn off gas and electricity before you evacuate.
- If a hurricane, flood, thunderstorm, or tornado warning has been issued, bring any outdoor furniture inside to prevent it from being moved by wind or flood waters.
- Once you are in a safe place, follow your command's protocols for personnel accountability and contact your command's designated Point of Contact to check-in and report your location and situation.

Set your own course through any hazard: stay informed, make a plan, build a kit. Live Ready Marine Corps.