



Start A Conversation

It's important to get yourself and the people you love ready for disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and so much more.

You may not know when a disaster will happen, but you can begin to take easy but impactful steps now to keep your family safe. Follow these five steps to help you start a conversation and begin your journey to get ready:

1. Think About the Intention

Talking about what you and your family should do to prepare for a disaster isn't an easy task, but it's necessary to save lives. Even though it's a tough topic and there isn't a perfect time to discuss, it is easier to talk about it before you're in the middle of an emergency. Honest and direct conversations can save your life and the people you love.



2. Be Aware of Disasters that Can Happen in Your Area

Knowing what can happen where you live will help you understand what you need to stay safe. Disasters such as floods and fires can happen anywhere, but others such as hurricanes and earthquakes are more common in certain areas. If you're new to an area, talk to people in your community to find out what disasters have happened and may happen in the future.

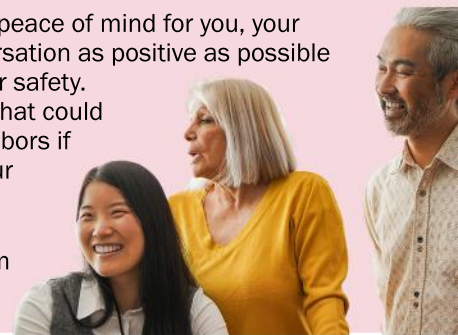


3. Consider Who Should Join the Conversation

Preparedness can look a little different for everyone depending on personal circumstances. Before you have a conversation, think about the key people you want to include. This can consist of any family members living in your household, older relatives, community members, neighbors, and friends. They can let you know how preparedness impacts them.

4. Have the Conversation

Discussing hard topics can provide peace of mind for you, your family, and friends. Keep the conversation as positive as possible by highlighting your concern for their safety. Highlight the facts about disasters that could happen in your area. Ask your neighbors if they can share tips that you and your family can put into practice. If they haven't started their preparedness journey, share information with them so they can begin.



5. Take Action Together

Consider taking at least one step to get ready for disasters. Examples include:

- Signing up for emergency alerts in your area to receive life-saving information from your state and local municipality.
- Storing important phone numbers somewhere besides just your phone.
- Visiting [Ready.gov/start](https://www.ready.gov/start) for more actions to prepare.



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