



Are you ready for your next emergency?

Here are some tips that may assist you to prepare for some of the common emergencies you might face at home



- Step 1: Know and understand the emergencies that could impact on your home.
- Contact your local emergency services or local Council for information about the risks you face in your community (e.g. if you live in the bush, expect fires, if you live near a river, expect a flood)
 - Learn about how those types of risk could affect your home and family.
- Step 2: Identify ways to reduce the effect of those emergencies on your home and family, some simple examples are listed below.
- Step 3: Develop a safety plan for your home. Your local emergency services can provide help on how to do this. If you choose to stay, make sure you are properly prepared. If you choose to go, make sure you leave early and have a 'be ready!' bag with all you essential items like:
- Important documents
 - Keys
 - Mobile phone
 - Portable radio and batteries
 - Medication
 - Precious valuables like photo albums
 - Don't forget your pets!
- Step 4: Discuss your emergency plan with everyone who lives with you and practice it regularly.
- Step 5: Stay alert and listen to the media for updates during on emergencies during high risk seasons (e.g. fire danger periods or cyclone season, depending on where you live).

Simple home risk reduction strategies:

Fire:

- Make sure your smoke detectors are working
- Lock, but don't deadlock your doors at night
- Regularly clean clothes dryers
- Don't smoke in bed
- Don't let children play with matches
- Don't leave electric blankets on
- Don't place objects too close to radiant heaters

Storms and floods:

- Secure loose objects when you hear a severe weather warning
- Keep trees and bushes trimmed
- Keep gutters and drains clean (good for fire risk too)
- Don't play in flood water – specially suburban flash flood water

Think about how well prepared you are for other emergencies such as a heat wave or an extended loss of power or gas.

For more help on developing your own safety plan, contact your local fire brigade or SES.

Call EMCS today to help you *be ready!*

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