



# Emergency Preparedness Tips

*The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) encourages all residents to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for emergencies and disasters.*

**[Mass.gov/Ready](https://www.mass.gov/Ready)**

## Plan for all kinds of hazards.

Residents can be affected by a variety of hazards, severe weather, natural disasters, and man-made threats. Learn more about the disasters most likely to affect Massachusetts and your area and how you can prepare.



**[bit.ly/plan-hazards](https://bit.ly/plan-hazards)**

## Make a plan.

Make a family emergency plan that indicates what to do and how to stay in contact in case of an emergency. Have an evacuation plan that includes where you will go and what you will bring.



**[bit.ly/Plan4Family](https://bit.ly/Plan4Family)**

## Construct a kit.

Include items that your family will need for 3–5 days:

- Bottled water and non-perishable food
- Flashlights, a radio, and extra batteries
- Phone chargers
- First aid kit with medications, spare eyeglasses
- Specialized medical equipment, if necessary
- Personal care items.
- Copies of important documents.



**Remember:** Your kit does not need to cost a lot of money, and you can construct it over time.

**[bit.ly/Your-Kit](https://bit.ly/Your-Kit)**

## Prepare for medical needs.

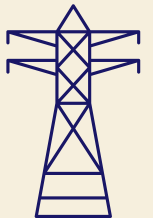
If you or someone in your family has special medical needs, or equipment, include those in your plan. Talk to your medical provider for advice or additional assistance.



## Prepare for power outages.

Have a plan for prolonged power outages.

**[bit.ly/Powers-Out](https://bit.ly/Powers-Out)**



## Prepare your home.

Take steps to prevent damage caused by wind and flooding. Ensure that your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors work.

**[bit.ly/ReadyHome](https://bit.ly/ReadyHome)**



## Prepare for pets and service animals.

Include food, provisions, pet carriers and other things your pet or service animal would need in an evacuation.

Remember, your service animal will always be allowed in shelters or anywhere else you go.



# Before, During, & After An Emergency

## Stay informed.

Pay attention to any updates on the emergency through communications from emergency officials. Subscribe to a local reverse 9-1-1 system if your community has one. Make sure that your smartphone can receive emergency alerts.



[Ready.gov/alerts](https://www.ready.gov/alerts)

## Be a good neighbor.

Check on people in your neighborhood that may need additional help before, during, and after an emergency.



## Listen to emergency officials.

If you are told to evacuate, do so immediately.  
If you have evacuated, only return to your home when local officials say it is safe to do so. Consult local officials or call 2-1-1 to find shelter locations or other information about the catastrophe.



## Keep a record of any property damage.

If your home or property is damaged during an emergency, take photos or videos to document the damage; this can help with insurance and the recovery process.



## Important Links:

### Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency



[Mass.gov/MEMA](https://www.mass.gov/mema)



[Twitter.com/MassEMA](https://twitter.com/MassEMA)



[Facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA](https://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA)

### National Weather Service Boston/Norton Office



[Weather.gov/box](https://www.weather.gov/box)



[Twitter.com/NWSBoston](https://twitter.com/NWSBoston)



[Facebook.com/NWSBoston](https://www.facebook.com/NWSBoston)

### National Weather Service Albany, NY Office



[Weather.gov/aly](https://www.weather.gov/aly)



[Twitter.com/NWSAlbany](https://twitter.com/NWSAlbany)



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**Massachusetts Emergency  
Management Agency**

[Mass.gov/mema](https://www.mass.gov/mema)