

Steps to Preparedness

- Know Your Risk
- Have a Plan
- Make a Kit
- Be Informed
- Get Involved



Know Your Risk

Knowing the risks facing Franklin County is a key step in preparing for the most likely scenarios. Many things done to prepare, such as assembling an emergency supply kit, are the same regardless of the type of emergency, however some emergencies require special planning. Below are the top hazards ranked for Franklin County according to the 2016 Franklin County Risk Assessment.

1. Tornadoes
2. Cyber Threat
3. Infectious Disease
4. Flooding
5. Lone Wolf Terrorist Attack
6. Dam Failure
7. Utility/Energy Interruption or Failure
8. Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or Explosive (CBRNE) Terrorist Incident
9. Severe Winter Weather
10. Hazardous Materials Incidents
11. Civil Disturbance
12. Severe Summer Weather
13. Transportation Accident- Aircraft
14. Space Weather
15. Extreme Heat
16. Earthquakes
17. Invasive Species
18. Air & Water Pollution/Contamination
19. Drought

Have a Plan

Create a plan for how you and your family will handle an emergency situation. Answer questions such as: Where will you go? How will you get there? How will you communicate? How will you get the help you need? Who will care for your pets? Who will be in your personal support network?

- Keep a copy of your plan in your emergency supply kits and a list of important information and contacts in your wallet.
- Share your plan with your family, friends, care providers and others in your personal support network.
- Make arrangements for any transportation assistance to get to a safe location or community shelter.
- For every essential aspect of your daily routine, plan an alternative procedure.

Personal Support Network

- Create a Personal Support Network. A Personal Support Network is a group of people who will help you to respond to and recover from a disaster.
- Make a list of family, friends and others who will be part of your plan. Talk to these people and ask them to be part of your support network.
- Share each aspect of your emergency plan with everyone in your group, including a friend or relative in another area who would not be impacted by the same emergency who can help if necessary.
- Make sure everyone knows how you plan to evacuate your home or workplace and where you will go in case of a disaster.
- Make sure that someone in your personal support network has an extra key to your home and knows where you keep your emergency supplies.
- Practice your plan with those who have agreed to be part of your personal support network

Family Communications Plan

- Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations.
- Consider adding a component to the plan where each family member contacts an out-of-town friend or relative to check-in. A contact outside the immediate area may not be impacted by the same emergency and would have a better ability to assist.
- Determine meeting places close to home for local emergencies such as fires, and away from home for more widespread disasters.

Fire Safety Plan

- Create a fire safety plan for your home and get to know the plan for your building and your work.
- Plan two ways out of every room in case of fire.
- Check for items such as bookcases, hanging pictures, or overhead lights that could fall and block an escape path.
- Check hallways, stairwells, doorways, windows and other areas for hazards that may keep you from safely leaving a building during an emergency.
- Secure or remove objects that may block your path.
- If there are aspects of preparing your home or workplace that you are not able to do yourself, enlist the help of your personal support network.

Shelter in Place

- Sheltering in Place is staying in your home to avoid greater danger outside.
- Consider what supplies you will need to safely shelter-in-place alone or with friends, family or neighbors.
- Have a plan in place to communicate with those outside your home to ensure your continued safety.
- There could be times when you will need to stay put and create a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside. This process is known as “sealing the room.” For more information about “sealing the room,” visit www.ready.gov.

Evacuation Plan

- There may be conditions when you will decide to leave your home or ordered to do so.
- Plan how you will leave and coordinate where you will go.
- Choose several destinations in different directions so you have many options in an emergency.
- Ask about evacuation plans at the places where you spend time including work, community organizations and other places you frequent.
- If you typically rely on elevators, have a back-up plan in case they are not working.

Pets

- Be sure to consider family pets and service animals in your emergency plan.
- Keep pet supplies in your emergency kit.
- Make sure your pet has tags or a microchip on at all times.
- Consider locating a friend, family member, or boarding facility that can keep your pet in a more familiar and less stressful place than a public shelter.

Make a Kit

Create a Disaster Kit and a Go Kit. A Disaster Kit is a collection of supplies kept at home to assist you to maintain independence in your home for a period of at least 3 days. A Go Kit is a lightweight portable collection of supplies to take with you during an evacuation.

Recommended basic emergency supplies include:

- Water, one gallon per person per day for at least three days
- Food, at least a three-day supply of nonperishable food and a can opener if kit contains canned food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio, flashlight, and NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for all three
- Personal care items
- Cell phone and charger
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Local maps
- Pet food, extra water and supplies for your pet or service animal
- Cash or travelers checks in case you need to purchase supplies.

Consider Medical Needs

- Seniors and those with medical needs should keep specialized items ready and stocked if possible, including extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, catheters, and medication. Keep a list of your devices and model numbers in your kit.
- Keep a list of your medications, including treatment protocols and dosages. Be sure to make provisions for medications that require special handling, such as refrigeration.
- Maintain a list of medical care, pharmaceutical, and equipment providers including phone numbers to ensure you can restock and receive care if you are away from home.
- Ensure service animals are considered as well. (Food, water, veterinary records)
- If you undergo routine treatments administered by a clinic or hospital or if you receive regular services such as home health care, treatment or transportation, talk to your service providers about their emergency plans. Can they continue to provide care during a disaster?
- Work with your providers to identify back-up service providers within your area and the areas where you plan to evacuate.
- If you use medical equipment in your home that requires electricity to operate, talk to your health care provider about what you can do to prepare for its use during a power outage.

Important Documents

- Prepare copies of your important documents for inclusion in your kit and documents in a waterproof container. Examples include:
 - Insurance cards
 - Family records
 - Wills/Power of attorney documents
 - Deeds
 - Social security numbers/Tax records
 - Credit card and bank information
 - Names and numbers of everyone in your personal support network and medical providers.

Be Informed

Know what to do before, during and after an emergency. Know how you will be notified if disaster strikes and where you would go if you and your family need to evacuate.

- Sign up for ALERT Franklin County at www.alertfranklincounty.org
- Purchase a NOAA weather radio to keep updated on weather conditions impacting your area.
- Have a plan in place and practice the plan.
- Tune in: monitor news sites, social media, print media, and community announcements

Get Involved

There are many ways to Get Involved especially before a disaster occurs. The key to ensuring a safer homeland consists of trained volunteers and informed individuals taking action to increase the support of emergency response agencies during disasters. Major disasters can overwhelm first responder agencies, empowering individuals to lend support.

- Get trained and volunteer with a community based volunteer group, such as the Franklin County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
- Volunteer to support disaster efforts in your community.
- Help your neighbors to be better prepared for disasters.
- Be part of the community planning process as an advocate
- Support major disasters by donating time, cash, or goods which may help meet the needs of your community in times of disaster.

For more information on disaster preparedness visit: www.ready.gov