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Know your neighbors' special skills (e.g., medical, technical) and consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as disabled and elderly persons. Make plans for child care in case parents cannot get home.

### **Home Hazard Hunt**

During a disaster, ordinary objects in your home can cause injury or damage. Anything that can move, fall, break, or cause a fire is a home hazard. For example, a hot water heater or bookshelf can fall. Inspect your home at least once a year and fix potential hazards. Contact your local fire department to learn about home fire hazards.

### **Evacuation**

Evacuate immediately if told to do so:

- Listen to your battery-powered radio and follow the instructions of local emergency officials
- Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes
- Take your Disaster Supplies Kit
- Lock your home
- Use travel routes specified by local authorities—do not use shortcuts because certain areas may be impassable or dangerous

If you are sure you have time:

- Shut off water, gas, and electricity before leaving, if instructed to do so
- Post a note telling others when you left and where you are going
- Make arrangements for your pets

### **If Disaster Strikes**

If disaster strikes: remain calm and be patient. Put your plan into action. Check for injuries: Give first aid and get help for seriously injured people. Listen to your battery-powered radio for news and instructions: Evacuate, if advised to do so. Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.

### **Check for damages in your home:**

- Use flashlights – do not light matches or turn on electrical switches, if you suspect damage
- Check for fires, fire hazards, and other household hazards
- Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows, and get everyone outside quickly
- Shut off any other damaged utilities
- Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline, and other flammable liquids immediately

### **Remember to:**

- Confine or secure your pets. If you evacuate and plan to take your pet, remember to include food and water for each
- Consider closing up your home and leaving food and water if is safe for your animals. Your Health Department can advise you through public media