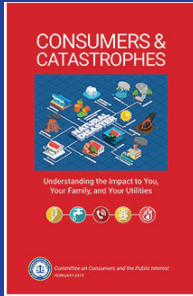


The information below is from a publication, "Consumers & Catastrophes: Understanding the Impact to You, Your Family, and Your Utilities," prepared by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest. Download the free NARUC consumer guide.



Developing an Emergency Plan

Developing an emergency plan is the most critical element of emergency preparedness. Your family may be separated at the time of a disaster, so it is important that every family member know what to do in the event of an emergency.

1. Be familiar with the types of disasters that could affect your area.
2. Develop a plan (see Family Disaster Plan template) by discussing these four questions:
 - a. How will you receive emergency alerts and warnings?
 - b. What is your shelter plan? Will you remain where you are or evacuate?
 - c. What is your evacuation route?
 - d. What is your family/household communication plan?
(See Family Communication Plan, Communication Plan for Kids, and Family Emergency Communication Card templates. The card can be stored in each family member's wallet for easy access).
3. Consider your specific household needs. Do you have pets? Where is everyone during the day? How can you communicate when you are apart and who can help you reach or get messages to one another? Does anyone in the household have mobility concerns or durable medical equipment?
4. Complete a Family Emergency Plan. (See Family Disaster Plan and Commuter Emergency Plan templates)
5. Practice your plan with your family/household.
6. Download the Red Cross Emergency! App. It is free and allows people to receive alerts for their local city but also alerts for cities of where your family/contacts live and a built in "Are you okay?" feature for easy and quick check-ins.

DISCLAIMER

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