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## **Tips and Resources for Home Safety Preparation**

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The best way to create a home safety plan is by thinking about worst-case scenarios. These are situations that could pose a threat to your family in the future. For example, what would happen if there was a fire in the house? Prepare for these scenarios and make sure you know where to find your family's emergency contact information and important documents.

Create a home safety plan that works for your family by planning worst-case scenarios and preparing accordingly. The following guide presented by [Byron Fire Protection District](#) can help you get started.

**10 things you might want to have in a disaster supply kit - you should be able to fit them in one or two easy-to-carry bags:**

1. Complete change of clothing, including coats, sweaters, gloves, and hats.
2. Infant formula and diapers
3. Prescription meds with needles etc and a first aid kit
4. Cash, credit cards, and important documents

5. [Water pouches and enough non-perishable food](#) for three days
6. Phone, electronic devices, [chargers, and portable charging units](#)
7. Flashlight and batteries
8. Whistle for signaling for help
9. [Matches in waterproof containers](#) and/or lighters
10. Sanitizers, including sanitizing wipes

## **Making Your Home Safe**

You and your family spend most of your time in your home and so it's important to make safety a top priority for your house as well as your family. The following are important safety considerations for your home.

1. Homeowner's insurance. Windermere notes that [this will cover damage](#) resulting from fire, smoke, theft or vandalism, or damage caused by a weather event such as lightning, wind, or hail. Other covered damage could come from external forces like a falling tree.
2. Flood Insurance. [Flood insurance covers your home](#) and personal belongings against water damage caused by flooding, including high tides, hurricane storm surge, heavy rain, and other sources of natural flooding. A typical homeowner's insurance policy does not cover flood damage, so if you live in a flood zone or close to a body of water, you should consider filling in this important coverage gap with flood insurance.
3. Hire an expert to review all your major appliances and HVAC to ensure they are safe, in good repair, and are not emitting any dangerous chemicals or fumes into the air. If you have a fridge, oven, stove, or other appliance that needs to be fixed, it's important to hire a professional repair person rather than try to do the work yourself for safety's sake. [Use a review website](#) to find an appliance repair specialist with great reviews, then contact a few to compare quotes. Review sites may also help you find local deals on appliance repair services.
4. Use lighting for home safety by installing motion sensor lights and floodlights.
5. Smoke detectors [and radon gas detectors](#) should be properly installed and checked regularly to be sure they are in proper working order.
6. Today's technology has made it possible for people to [work from virtually any place](#), including their homes, and your home office may be one of the most valuable places in your home. Because you'll have most of your electronics and office equipment there, be sure it's covered in your homeowner's insurance policy, and if offered, purchase extended warranties on your electronics.
7. Scientific Plant Service points out that [trees in your yard](#) should be inspected regularly since they can become unhealthy and could fall, damaging your property or that of your neighbors.

Home and fire safety should be reviewed often and with the whole family. This goes double if you're working from home, which means you'll spend more time there than anywhere else. Hopefully, you'll never need it, but the peace of mind knowing you're ready is priceless.

***Byron Fire Protection District*** is dedicated to protecting the lives and property of District citizens and visitors from the adverse effects of fire, sudden medical emergencies, or the exposure to dangerous conditions. Contact us today for more information! **815-234-2361** or **815-234-4911**