What Should Your Household Prepare for First?

Start with a few local hazards, connect them to daily needs, then choose three next actions. This is a starting point, not a complete emergency plan or a risk score.

Area / neighborhood **Date started**

Fictional example | one connected decision

H1: winter storm. County guide checked 12 Nov 2026; outage length unknown. Need: school pickup without a car. Fallback: neighbor, not confirmed. Action: Sam asks the neighbor by 16 Nov; done only when an arrangement is agreed.

Use local emergency management, hazard maps or public agencies. Write a source you can find again. IDs H1 to H3 carry through the next two pages; they are not rankings.

H1 | Hazard / disruption and place affected

Local source / map / office **Checked date**

What is known? What is unknown or not checked yet?

H2 | Hazard / disruption and place affected

Local source / map / office **Checked date**

What is known? What is unknown or not checked yet?

H3 | Hazard / disruption and place affected

Local source / map / office **Checked date**

What is known? What is unknown or not checked yet?

Unknown does not mean low concern. A community map is not a property-level forecast. Include concerns still needing a source; use the next pages to assign that check.

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What would become difficult?

Carry over an H ID from page 1 for each need affected. Repeat an ID if one hazard affects several needs. A fallback is an option you could actually use, not just equipment you own.

Think about water, food, shelter, power, care, alerts, communication and transport. Include children, access needs, pets or service animals. Use initials, not diagnoses or private account details.

Gap A

From H ID(s) **Essential need affected / who needs help**

Current fallback / is it confirmed, unconfirmed or missing?

Unresolved gap / what must be checked or arranged?

Gap B

From H ID(s) **Essential need affected / who needs help**

Current fallback / is it confirmed, unconfirmed or missing?

Unresolved gap / what must be checked or arranged?

Gap C

From H ID(s) **Essential need affected / who needs help**

Current fallback / is it confirmed, unconfirmed or missing?

Unresolved gap / what must be checked or arranged?

Put serious unresolved care or safety needs ahead of easy purchases. Seek appropriate professional or local support for those gaps; this sheet gives no medical advice or safe waiting period.

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Choose the next useful steps

Choose consequential gaps, not just easy tasks. Find, ask, check, arrange or buy. Agree an owner and target date. Dates are reminders, not permission to delay urgent help.

Action 1 | From page 2 gap A / B / C and H ID(s)

Specific action / what will count as done?

Owner / agreed helper **Target date**

Done date + evidence, or still blocked because

Action 2 | From page 2 gap A / B / C and H ID(s)

Specific action / what will count as done?

Owner / agreed helper **Target date**

Done date + evidence, or still blocked because

Action 3 | From page 2 gap A / B / C and H ID(s)

Specific action / what will count as done?

Owner / agreed helper **Target date**

Done date + evidence, or still blocked because

Next review date **Review with / where this sheet is kept**

Three actions are a start, not a readiness rating. Review after changes at home or new guidance. Follow current alerts and evacuation orders. Never cut power, stop care or create hazards to test a plan.

Planning guidance (US-oriented; use local equivalents elsewhere):
Ready.gov: ready.gov/plan
Red Cross: redcross.org > Get Help > Make a Plan
Guidance consulted 12 Nov 2026. TSN worksheet, not agency approval.

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