



Step 2: Make a Plan

The next time a disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act. Planning ahead reduces anxiety. Prepare now for a sudden emergency and remember to review your plan regularly.

FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Explain your concerns to your family and others in your support network and work with them as a team to prepare. Assess yourself and your household. What personal abilities and limitations may affect your response to a disaster? Think about how you can resolve these or other questions and discuss them with your family and friends. Details are important to ensure your plan fits your needs. Then, practice the planned actions to make sure everything “works.” Always carry family contact information in your wallet or purse. Additionally, choose an out-of-town contact person. After a disaster, it is often easier to make a long-distance call than a local call from a disaster area.

Communications Plan



ESCAPE ROUTES AND MEETING PLACES

- Plan the safest and quickest escape routes out of your home; and evacuation routes out of your neighborhood.
- Decide on a meeting place away your neighborhood in case you get separated and cannot return home.
- If someone in your household uses a wheelchair, make sure all escape routes from your home are wheelchair accessible.
- Know the safe places within your home in case you need to take shelter during extreme weather events (e.g., tornado).
- Practice your escape drill every six months.
- Plan for transportation if you need to evacuate to a shelter.

BEST PREPAREDNESS PRACTICES

Post emergency phone numbers near your phones. Include the numbers of those in your support network. Remember that in some emergencies, telephone might not be working. Consider having alternative plans for contacting your network.

Plan for those with disabilities. Keep support items like wheelchairs and walkers in a designated place so they can be found quickly. This step is essential for those who have home-health caregivers.

Plan for your pets/service animals. Take your pets with you if you need evacuate. However, be aware that pets (except service animals) are not permitted in emergency public health shelters for health reasons. Prepare a list of family, friends, boarding facilities, veterinarians and pet-friendly hotels that could shelter your pets in an emergency.



Plan for utility procedures. Talk to your utility providers about emergency procedures and how and when to turn off water, gas and electricity at the main switches or valves. Share this information with your family. Keep any tools you will need nearby. Turn off the utilities only if you suspect the lines are damaged, if you suspect a leak or if local officials instruct you to do so.

Understand your insurance coverage. Talk with your insurance agent to be sure that you have adequate insurance coverage. Homeowners insurance may not cover flood damage and may not provide full coverage for other hazards.



Step 3: Be Informed

Maintain your kit, practice your plan, and be informed.

Every six months:

- Review your plan with all of your friends and family.
- Check your disaster supplies kit and refresh all expiring items (e.g., food, water, medications and batteries).
- Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills on a regular basis with your family. Make sure all your plans “work.”

At least once a year:

- Change the batteries in all essential devices at the same time each year (e.g., smoke alarms).

Community Hazard Assessment

What hazards threaten your community and neighborhood? Make a list of how they might affect you. Think about natural threats (e.g., flooding, winter storms and tornadoes), human-caused threats (e.g., hazardous materials and transportation accidents), and your risks. Visit www.ready.gov for additional readiness tips.

Community Warning Systems

Register for CodeRED® Emergency Alert System

Hawthorn Woods utilizes a rapid emergency notification service called CodeRED®. The system has the ability to distribute emergency messages via telephone to targeted areas or the entire village at a rate of 1,000 calls per minute. Hawthorn Woods residents and business organizations are encouraged to register so they may be contacted in the event of an emergency. To register, visit www.vhw.org/EmergencyAlertSystem. Registration is confidential, free, and easy.



Local Fire Departments

There are four fire protection districts that serve Hawthorn Woods: Wauconda Fire Protection District, Countryside Fire Protection District, Lake Zurich Rural Fire Protection District; and Long Grove Fire Protection District. All districts work in unison to provide fire protection to Hawthorn Woods residents. Connect with your local district to let them know your needs and discuss your disaster plan.

Emergency Alert System (EAS) Broadcast

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national public warning system that requires broadcasters, cable television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio service providers and direct broadcast satellite providers to provide the President with communications capability to address the American people within 10 minutes during a national emergency. This system may also be used by state and local authorities to deliver important information such as weather information, AMBER alerts and local incident information.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR)

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information from the nearest National Weather Service office (Chicago). NWR broadcasts official warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It also broadcasts alerts of non-weather emergencies such as national security, natural, environmental, and public safety.

Door-to-door Warning from Local Emergency Officials

In some emergencies, local responders may come door-to-door to deliver messages or warnings. Hawthorn Woods is part of the South Lake County Regional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) which serves the communities of Hawthorn Woods, Deer Park, Kildeer, Lake Zurich and Long Grove. CERT is an all volunteer 501(c)(3) organization that assists local authorities in emergencies. Visit www.slrcrcert.org for details. In an active emergency, please listen carefully and follow the instructions of door-to-door officials.

