



Step #3: Be Informed

How to Be Informed Checklist

- Learn about common disasters that could happen where you live.
- Identify danger signs for each disasters likely to occur near where you live.
- Ask your parents and/or teacher to explain what usually happens during and after the types of disasters that could happen where you live. Learn what to do for each.
- Be able to recognize warning signals (such as outdoor sirens and radio or television signals and messages). Know what to do if you hear warning signals.
- Learn the difference between a watch and a warning.

Earthquakes

- Earthquakes happen without warning. Plan what to do before they happen.

Floods

- Flooding occurs when a body of water overflows its banks; usually floods are caused by heavy rains, a dam breaking, or snow melting too quickly.
- Floods are a frequent natural disaster and can happen almost anywhere.
- Flash floods occur when rivers or streams overflows their banks rapidly, often without warning.

Hurricanes

- A hurricane is a tropical storm with strong winds blowing in a large spiral around a calm center known as the “eye.”
- Hurricane season is June 1 to November 30 along the southern Atlantic and Gulf Coast areas. Along the Pacific Coast, typhoon season is mid-May through November.
- Hurricanes can cause heavy rains, strong winds, large waves, and storm surges that can damage buildings, trees, and cars, as well as produce flooding.
- Be alert to tropical storm warnings/watches as well as hurricane warnings/watches.

Tornadoes

- Tornadoes are violent windstorms with twisting funnel clouds that may touch ground.
- Tornado season is March through August. Most happen in afternoon or evening.
- Tornadoes can occur anyplace but are common in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.
- Be aware of severe thunderstorm warnings/watches.