

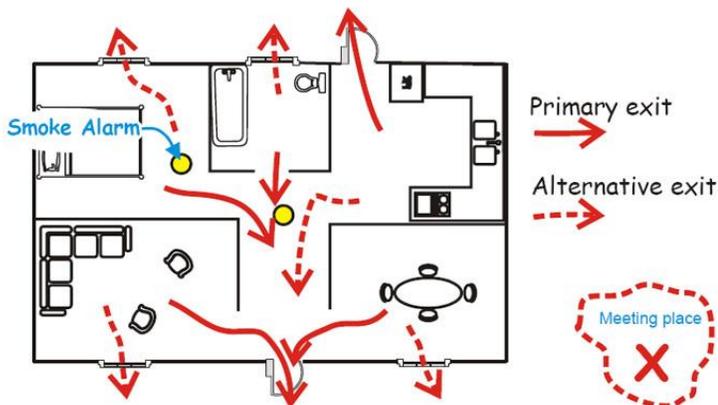
Suky Mahikari Emergency Preparedness Bulletin: November 2014



How would your family react if a fireman knocked on your door and told you that you had just 10 minutes to evacuate your neighborhood? Would you be able to work together as a team or would there be confusion and disharmony due to lack of preparation? Now that we've reached the peak of the Baptism by Fire, it's important to prepare your family for the possibility that major disasters could strike anywhere without warning.



Sit down with your family and create a plan outlining where you will go, what you will do and how you will contact each other in case of an emergency. Identify roles and tasks for each member of the family so that you can work together calmly and minimize the possibility of confusion. Be sure to include your children in the planning process, as their perspectives can be quite valuable.



As you develop your plan, please ask yourself the following questions:

- What are the major types of hazards that we will likely face in our community? How will we prepare for and respond to them?
- How will we get out of the house and where we will meet if the house catches on fire?
- Where will we go if we need to evacuate the neighborhood?
- What will we do if we have to remain in our home ('shelter-in-place') for an extended period of time?

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It's also important to think about how you will communicate with your family if you're not together when disaster strikes. Text messaging is often a good option when the phone lines are congested or down. Also, in some instances, long-distance lines may still be functional even if the local lines are completely congested. Consider designating an out-of-town contact who can relay messages for your family.



Get in the habit of reviewing and practicing your plan on a regular basis. All first responders uphold the importance of repetitive practice to maintain their effectiveness in disasters. The same principle applies to your family.



Both Canada and the United States have excellent resources available online, including sample plans and checklists.

For helpful information from the Canadian government, check out <http://getprepared.ca>.

For the United States, see <http://ready.gov>.

Most cities, states and provinces also maintain preparedness websites, which are usually easy to find online.

Best wishes as you take steps to prepare your family during this important stage of the Divine Plan.

