



PERSONAL SAFETY – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

WHAT TO DO AFTER A DISASTER (PART ONE)

It is important that you know what to do in the event of a disaster. A disaster may be a natural event, such as a fire or earthquake or may be man-made, such as a terrorism incident.

How quickly you are able to recover from such an event may depend on your planning and preparation. The following tips will assist you in the event a disaster does occur.

What to do in the event of a disaster:

- Remain calm and be patient.
- Follow the advice of local emergency services.
- Listen to your radio or television for news and instructions.
- Check for injuries. Give first aid and get help for seriously injured people.
- Stay away from the disaster area.
- If you are at home, remain there.
- Check your home/building for any damage. Do not light matches, candles or turn on electrical switches. Use a flashlight or your mobile phone for light.
- Check for fires, fire hazards and other household hazards.
- Smell for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows and ensure everyone leaves the area immediately.
- Shut off any damaged utilities.
- Secure your pets.
- Call your family contact; do not use the telephone again unless it is a life-threatening emergency.
- Check on your neighbours, especially those who may be elderly or have a disability.
- If you see something suspicious, report it to police.
- If you have been evacuated, do not return home until authorities advise you it is safe to do so.
- Be vigilant. Look for secondary hazards such as falling debris or further attacks.

If you have any questions please contact your nearest police station or visit www.police.sa.gov.au





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WHAT TO DO AFTER A DISASTER (PART TWO)

If you are asked to leave your home after a disaster, follow these tips:

- Wear a long-sleeve shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes so you can be protected.
- Take your emergency kit.
- Lock your home.
- Use travel routes specified by local authorities; don't use shortcuts because certain areas may be impassable or dangerous.
- Stay away from fallen power lines.
- Listen to local authorities. They will provide you with the most accurate information specific to a disaster in your area.
- Stay tuned to local radio and television for instructions.

If you have time, follow these additional emergency preparedness actions:

- Call your family contact to tell them where you are going and when you expect to arrive.
- Shut off water and electricity before leaving, if instructed to do so. Leave natural gas service ON unless it is damaged or local officials advise you otherwise.
- Close and lock all windows and external doors.
- Get your emergency supplies kit and ensure the radio is working.
- If you are remaining within the home, go to an internal room without windows that is above ground.
- Using duct tape, seal all cracks around doors and any vents in the room to keep potential contaminants out of your home.
- Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told it is safe for you to leave or you are told to evacuate.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES



**Government
of South Australia**

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