



## **WHAT TO DO AFTER A DISASTER (PART ONE)**

It is important that you know what to do in the event of 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.

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**





## 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.

For further information please contact your nearest police station or visit [www.police.sa.gov.au](http://www.police.sa.gov.au).

South Australia Police (SAPOL) is committed to working in partnership with the community to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime to ensure that South Australia is a safe place to live, visit and do business.

