Arizona has a history of flooding and wildfires. In fact, each year over 1,500 wildfires occur statewide. Although most are caught early by firefighters, it’s hard to know where the next big fire might spark. The unpredictability of disasters is one reason why all Arizonans need to **make a plan, build a kit, be informed and inspire others** regardless of where they live in the state.

Even though disasters don’t occur as often in Arizona as they do in many other states, don’t put off getting prepared. Though you may never need to evacuate your home or shelter in place because of an emergency, being prepared for one is peace of mind ... just in case.

"Whole Community is not about what you can do alone, but about what we can achieve together."

Emergency preparedness, prevention, response, recovery and mitigation is the shared responsibility of the Whole Community, including federal, state, tribal and local governments; non-governmental, nonprofit and faith-based organizations; private sector businesses; and communities, families and individuals.

Each member of the Whole Community has a responsibility to every other member to know what to do and where to go in case of an emergency. This brochure was created to reassure Arizonans of their ability to prepare for all hazards, and to help them take ownership of their personal and family preparedness. Your efforts now can make all the difference if/when disaster strikes.

Visit the Arizona Emergency Information Network (AzEIN) at ein.az.gov for more information on local and state hazards, and suggestions on how to prepare for them.
Disasters and emergencies can create a situation where it could take first responders a few hours to several days to reach you. In such extreme cases, it’s important that Arizonans have an emergency communication plan, a disaster supplies kit, and know where and how to get reliable information.

Emergency preparedness is as much about having confidence in your ability to prepare as it is about making preparations. You don’t need to invest all your free time or spend a lot of money to prepare. There are small steps you can take, questions you can ask, and free resources—like this brochure—you can download to help you make a plan, build a kit, be informed and inspire others.

**make a plan**
Preparedness starts with a plan; a playbook that describes where you and/or your family will go and how you’ll communicate in an emergency.

Involv[e](#)e the whole household in making and practicing your Family Communication Plan. Work together to locate two (2) emergency meeting places, make a list of important phone numbers and identify an Out-of-Town Contact.

An Out-of-Town Contact is a family friend or relative who lives outside the immediate area—preferably in another state—and can facilitate communication between family members in an emergency.

If you don’t have an Out-of-Town Contact, take time to call or text a friend or relative. Ask them to be your Out-of-Town Contact.

If possible, make an “In Case of Emergency” group that includes family members and your Out-of-Town Contact.

**build a kit**
An emergency kit contains enough supplies to support your family for at least 72 hours. Build a kit that includes nonperishable food and potable water, and provides for the needs of your family, including children and sick individuals. Other recommended items include:

- prescription medications and eyeglasses
- flashlight(s) with extra batteries
- first aid kit
- battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- personal hygiene items
- important papers (e.g., insurance and financial)
- cash (e.g., small bills and coins)
- cell phone and charger
- manual can opener
- copy of your Family Communication Plan

**Go Kits**
Sometimes circumstances—for example, a sudden change in wind direction on a wildfire—necessitate the immediate evacuation of homes, neighborhoods and entire communities. When time is of the essence, be prepared with a Go Kit packed with the 5 Ps of Immediate Evacuation:

- People and pets (i.e., food, water and clothing)
- Papers (e.g., copies of important documents)
- Prescriptions (e.g., medical devices and glasses)
- Priceless items (e.g., family photos and valuables)
- Personal needs (e.g., cell phones)

**be informed**
The more you know about your community, local hazards and emergency plans, including the plan at your child’s school, the better prepared you’ll be to respond.

Be informed of current events and forecasts. Monitor local news and weather coverage, bookmark official government sources like ein.az.gov, and sign up to receive emergency alerts.

Several counties and tribes use emergency notification systems to warn residents of severe weather and to send alerts. Contact your local emergency management office to register. If you own a mobile phone, double check that the Wireless Emergency Alerts feature is turned on.

**Know How to Communicate**
It may be easier to send and receive text messages or post a “safe and well” message to social media than to make a phone call after an emergency.

Some mobile phones allow users to create contact groups. If possible, make an “In Case of Emergency” group that includes family members and your Out-of-Town Contact.

**inspire others**
Be a positive preparedness example. Look for opportunities to include others in your preparations. For example, you and a friend could join a local Community Emergency Response Team or you might enroll the family in a basic first aid course.

**Pay it Forward**
Share what you’ve learned about emergency preparedness from this brochure with friends, family, neighbors and coworkers. Email an electronic copy of our brochure to anyone who would benefit from learning more about personal and family preparedness. Go to https://ein.az.gov/publications to view and share the brochure online.