



'Tropical' sounds like a relaxing vacation event. Not so when your talking about a Tropical Storm in which the maximum sustained surface wind speed ranges from 39 to 73 mph. Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance: how you will get to a safe place; how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations. Prepare yourself and your family for a disaster by making an emergency plan.

Source:FEMA <http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>

- Your emergency planning should also address the care of pets, aiding family members with access and functional needs and safely shutting off utilities.
- You may also want to inquire about emergency plans at work, daycare and school. Facilities designed for children should include identification planning as part of their emergency plans.
- Complete a contact card for each family member. Keep these cards handy in a wallet, purse or briefcase, backpacks or book bags, etc.
- Identify a contact such as a friend or relative who lives out-of-state for household members to notify they are safe. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.
- Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number and has a cell phone, coins or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact. If you have a cell phone, program that person(s) as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) in your phone. If you are in an accident, emergency personnel will often check your ICE listings in order to get a hold of someone you know. Make sure to tell your family and friends that you've listed them as emergency contacts.
- Teach family members how to use text messaging. Text messages can often get around network disruptions when a phone call might not be able to get through.
- Subscribe to alert services. Many communities now have systems that will send instant text alerts or e-mails to let you know about bad weather, road closings, local emergencies, etc
- Once you've collected this important information, gather your family members and discuss the information to put in the plan. Practice your plan at least twice a year and update it according to any issues that arise.