

For more information visit  
[www.cityofboston.gov/readyboston](http://www.cityofboston.gov/readyboston)

or call the  
Mayor's 24 Hour Constituent Service  
at 617-635-4500



# READY BOSTON

[www.cityofboston.gov/readyboston](http://www.cityofboston.gov/readyboston)

**Boston's Community Preparedness Initiative.**

Hopefully you will never face an emergency situation. If you do, it is better to be ready.

**Create a Plan. Make a Kit.  
Be Informed. Get Involved.**



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF  
EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS  
THOMAS M. MENINO  
MAYOR



BOSTON



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor

# READY BOSTON

Create a Plan • Make a Kit • Be Informed • Get Involved

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## *Boston's Community Preparedness Initiative*

**READYBOSTON** is a city-wide community preparedness initiative meant to educate and empower Bostonians about the hazards they may face and to encourage residents to prepare for all types of emergencies.

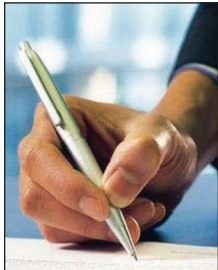
Since every emergency is different and we can't anticipate the exact nature of an emergency, we need to have a range of preparations—only some of which will be needed depending on the situation. While the City of Boston is taking important steps to prepare for an emergency, Boston residents must also start down their own road to being ready.

Whether it be a man-made or natural disaster, **READYBOSTON** focuses on an all hazards communications approach to preparing based on 4 pillars: *creating a household emergency plan, making a household emergency kit and go-bag, being informed about various hazards, and getting involved in community preparedness organizations.*

- 1 Create a Plan**
- 2 Make a Kit**
- 3 Be Informed**
- 4 Get Involved!**

## 1 Create a Plan

*Developing a household plan is the first step to being ready.*



The most important part is ensuring your family members are familiar with the plan and that it is practiced. This pamphlet is a starting point for you to begin planning how to

communicate in an emergency, how to find each other, and the foresight to account for everybody's needs in any type of emergency. For more detailed information go to [www.cityofboston.gov/readyboston](http://www.cityofboston.gov/readyboston)

**Create a Household Communications Plan.** Since your family may not be together when an emergency occurs, it is important to know that everyone is okay. Designate an out-of-town contact household members call if separated during an emergency.

**Have a predetermined family meeting location** with which the entire family is familiar.

There may be members of your family such as seniors, children, or people with disabilities. Ensure that your plan incorporates their needs and takes into account their ability to react during an emergency.

**Don't forget your pets!** If your family needs to go to a shelter know that all Red Cross shelters and many others do not allow pets unless they are service animals.

Talk to your veterinarian now to determine where the closest emergency animal shelter is located to ensure your pet is well taken care of.

Lastly, know the emergency plans of places your family frequents: work, school, day care, etc. Be sure to incorporate their plan into yours where needed.

## 2 Make a Kit

*Two types of kits will help prepare you to shelter-in-place or to evacuate:*

**A Household Emergency Kit** is intended to sustain you and your family at home *for at least 3 days*. The kit should contain items such as water, food, extra clothing or blankets, and the ability to stay informed.

Think through the essentials your family absolutely needs on a daily basis, such as medication or infant formula, and include those items in the household disaster kit.

**Plan for your pets.** Include enough food and water to sustain them without sacrificing the essential food and water needed for you.

**A Go-Bag** is a smaller more mobile version of the Household Emergency Kit. Make one Go-Bag for each family member and keep it in an accessible place.

By planning and preparing you will be ready if an emergency occurs.

## 3 Be Informed

*Know what might happen in various types of emergencies and stay informed when one occurs.*



An emergency does not have to be catastrophic in nature; it could be a water main break in your neighborhood, a fire, a major snow storm, or a flood.

Regardless, to be ready, a vital part of your plan is to be informed about hazards that face Boston. A Household Emergency Plan, Household Emergency Kit, and a Go-Bag serve the same function whether the emergency is a man-made or natural disaster.



Learn more about potential hazards by visiting:

[www.cityofboston.gov/readyboston](http://www.cityofboston.gov/readyboston)

*By doing so you are preparing yourself to be ready for the unexpected.*

## 4 Get Involved!

*By helping your community you are helping yourself prepare for an emergency. Boston's readiness starts with you...*



There are many opportunities to volunteer in preparedness and public safety programs around the city. Once you are prepared, volunteer some of your time to support one of these initiatives:

- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):** This program trains citizens to prepare for and respond to emergencies in their communities. Boston's CERT program is in keeping with Mayor Thomas M. Menino's commitment to emergency preparedness and safe communities for all residents of Boston. To learn more, visit [www.cityofboston.gov/cert](http://www.cityofboston.gov/cert) or email your inquiry to [cert@cityofboston.gov](mailto:cert@cityofboston.gov)
- **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC):** The National and local MRC bring together people who have skills related to health-care as well as citizen volunteers. They serve as a team during times of emergency or need in their own community. Go to [www.bostonmrc.org/](http://www.bostonmrc.org/) for more information.
- **Boston Neighborhood Crime Watch:** Crime Watch Groups address perplexing problems around the city through tireless efforts and partnerships with police, city agencies, the DA's office, and the court system. For more information go to: [www.bostoncrimewatch.com](http://www.bostoncrimewatch.com)

# GET READY BOSTON...