



### **Emergency Planning for Your Home**

There are some online, free resources that may be helpful to home operators as they draw up disaster plans required by the rules (OAC 5122-30-12).

**Required by the licensure rules, adult care facility operators must have a disaster plan for emergency situations that could happen in their area.** Everyone in Ohio should have at least a tornado plan, fire plan, and a plan for extended power outages.

Other disaster plans will depend on where you live. For example, if your home is near the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, you should have a [plan for a nuclear event](#).

If you live in a floodplain, flooding may be likely, so you should have a [plan in case your home floods](#). To find out if you live in a floodplain, you can type in your address here and view a map: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>.

**All operators are required to have a plan for responding to temperatures inside the facility above 81 degrees (OAC 5122-30-15).** While this isn't a natural disaster, it would require additional steps such as setting up fans, portable AC units, etc.

While initially drawing up these plans will take some time and thought, it really is a good idea for the health and safety of your residents to have a plan before an emergency situation happens. Once you do this once, you will probably not need to do it again.

## **Free Emergency Planning Resources You Can Use:**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a website called [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) that provides a lot of detailed information on how to plan for different emergencies such as tornadoes, fire, power outages, etc.

If you click on "[Plan Ahead](#)," it will give you steps to making a plan and additional considerations for planning.

As adult care facilities house individuals with disabilities, make sure to check out the link with considerations specific to people with disabilities and also the one on seniors.

The Red Cross also has some really good resources on disaster planning (<http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/make-a-plan>) and a simple "Family Emergency Plan template" that can be adapted for a group home.

Specifically, these are some important questions from this template to think through:

1. The disasters most likely to affect our household are:
2. What are the escape routes from our home?
3. If separated during an emergency, what is our meeting place near our home?
4. If we cannot return home or are asked to evacuate, what is our meeting place outside of our neighborhood?
5. What is our route to get there and an alternate route, if the first route is impassible?
6. During certain emergencies local authorities may direct us to "shelter in place" in our home. An accessible, safe room where we can go, seal windows, vents and doors and listen to emergency broadcasts for instructions, is:
7. Plan for residents with special needs in the event of an evacuation