

Preparedness

Guide



Four Steps to

Preparedness

As a resident of the City of Escondido, you are an important part of emergency planning and preparedness. This guide will help you better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters or other emergencies that face our community.

By following some simple guidelines, you can help your family, neighborhood, business, or school prepare before the next disaster.

- **Make a Plan**
- **Have a Kit**
- **Be Informed**
- **Get Involved**



Get Started

To get started, please review this basic emergency preparedness guide:

- Make a plan
- Have a kit
- Important stuff
- Water usage tips
- Be informed with important emergency websites
- Register for Reverse 9-1-1
- Get involved with CERT
- Create defensible space

*The **Escondido Fire Department's** mission is to serve the public and to safeguard the community from the impact of fire, medical, and environmental emergencies through education, emergency services, and enforcement.*

Get Ready!



The best time to prepare is before a disaster threatens your home or safety. Use these steps as a guide for getting ready.



Make a Plan

- Designate an out-of-town relative or friend as a contact for separated family members as it may be easier to place a long distance call or send a text message than use local communication systems.
- Become familiar with alternate routes out of your neighborhood in case your “usual way” is impassable.
- Plan transportation for your pets and livestock and ensure you have adequate pet carriers for each pet.
- Know emergency plans for your work and children's school.

Have a Kit

Your kit should include items that will help your family be comfortable and self-sufficient after a disaster for three days or more.

- Water for 3-5 days
(1 gallon per person per day)
- Food for 3-5 days
(including pet food)
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlights (and extra batteries)
- Radio (and extra batteries)
- Prescription medications
- Cash and important documents
- Clothing and sturdy shoes
- Work gloves
- Sanitation and hygiene supplies



Important Stuff

Make a list now of the things important to you and your family in an emergency.

- Eyeglasses
- Jewelry
- Child's favorite toy or book
- External hard drive
- Cell phone, tablet, and laptop with chargers

Water Usage Tips

Store a minimum of three gallons of emergency water per person, and plan on using one gallon per person each day. If purified water is not available during an emergency, boil water for one full minute and let the water completely cool before use. Periodically rotate water and food supplies per manufacturers' instructions.



Be Informed

It is important to know how the City of Escondido will notify the community before, during, and after an emergency. Here are some of the ways you can expect to find important emergency information:

Emergency Websites

- The City of Escondido – www.escondido.org
- San Diego County's Emergency Site – www.sdcountyemergency.com
- Ready San Diego – www.readysandiego.org
- 2-1-1 San Diego – www.211sandiego.org
- American Red Cross – www.sdarc.org
- San Diego Gas & Electric – www.sdge.com

Local Emergency Radio Stations

- KOGO AM 600 and FM 95.7
- KLSD AM 1360



Register for Reverse 9-1-1

Register your cell phone, Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone, and email address with AlertSanDiego, the county's reverse 9-1-1 notification system. Listed and unlisted landline phone numbers are already included in the Reverse 9-1-1 database and do not need to be registered.

For residents of San Diego County who are deaf, blind, and hard of hearing you may sign up for Accessible AlertSanDiego. Accessible AlertSanDiego sends emergency alerts and information to internet and video capable devices such as computers, cell phones, smart phones, tablet computers, and wireless Braille readers. These alerts are offered in American Sign Language (ASL) with English voice and text.

Visit www.readysandiego.org to sign up for these free services.

Get Involved with CERT

The Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, is the Escondido Fire Department's neighbor helping neighbor program that trains residents to respond to an emergency. You will learn basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Visit www.fire.escondido.org/cert.aspx to get involved.



Create Defensible Space

Defensible space is the area around your home where you manage vegetation to reduce the risks to life and property. Dead, weak, or diseased trees and other vegetation outside your home provide fuel for a wildfire, which increase the fire's intensity. Have a minimum of 100 feet of defensible space around your home to help reduce the impact of wildfire and provide firefighters adequate space to defend your home.

There are three zones around your house to consider:

Zone 1 – 30-50 feet

The area nearest your home should contain low growing plants with low fuel volume. Ideally, there should be no tall growing plants close to your home.

Zone 2 – 30-100 feet

Low growing ground covers that are resistant to fire and low in fuel volume are recommended in this zone. When properly maintained, a fire may be stopped before it reaches your home.

Zone 3 – Beyond 100 feet

While 100 feet of zoned fire resistant landscaping may not be adequate to protect your home under all circumstances, it should protect well in most situations.

Three R's of defensible space:

Removal – Cut down dead trees and remove flammable shrubs.

Reduction – Prune dead wood and reduce dried grass fuels by mowing.

Replacement – Replace dense vegetation with a well-maintained flowerbed.

