



Your Family Emergency Plan Checklist

Creating a home emergency plan starts with a list. Be sure to write it down when you begin so that nothing gets forgotten. How you begin directly impacts the outcome, so rather than thinking with an “if/then” mentality, you need to think with a “when/then” mindset. Reality is often stranger than fiction, so don't hesitate to imagine even the wildest scenarios. It's crucial to consider what *might* happen, and since that takes your mind there, you've already begun to train.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- When and how often any occupants are at home**
- Your home's size, layout, safe areas and danger areas**
- Your children's ages and abilities**
- Entry and exit locations and the security of each**
- Local law enforcement's abilities and response times**
- Tools available to you and your family for defense**
- Communication with each other and the outside world**

The above list is not all inclusive, but it's a start. Write your list in outline form, leaving space to add details for each category. Those categories will likely spur thought-provoking sub-categories. For instance, if choosing a closet for a safe area, there's plenty to consider. What are the locking mechanisms, if any? Is there light and electricity in the closet? What about weapons? Can you hide them in there?

EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

You can create your own list here. I suggest writing it in outline form, leaving space for details in each category.
