Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

BE EMERGENCY READY

Information and advice in case of emergencies

Find out more at
gov.ie/BeEmergencyReady

Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland

Be emergency ready tip #1



Once you have read this booklet, put it somewhere safe in case you need it.

The booklet is published by the Department of Defence's Office of Emergency Planning, on behalf of the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning, supported by Local Government Ireland.

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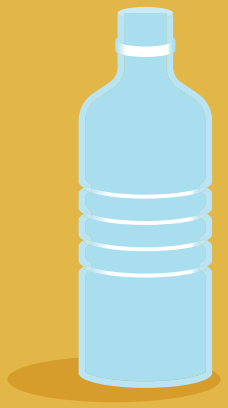
Be emergency ready tip #2





Make sure you have enough food and water to see you through an emergency.



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Emergencies happen

An emergency can happen at any time. The Government and emergency services are there to support you and your community.

Local authorities and our first responders will work at community level to support everyone's safety and well-being.

Emergencies may not happen often, but it is important to be prepared. This booklet will help you and your household prepare if the unexpected happens.

During an emergency, essential services such as power, water, communications or transport may be disrupted. Where possible, everyone should try to be prepared to support their needs in an emergency.

We have strength in our communities. During an emergency it is important to look out for one another.

Do what you can:
Some preparation is better than no preparation at all.

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How to be emergency ready

It is important to take the time to think about how we can take care of ourselves and our loved ones in the event of an emergency.

There are three steps:

1. **Be aware**
2. **Make a plan**
3. **Stay connected**



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Breaking down the three steps

1

Be aware

Events like storms, flooding, cyber-attacks and disruptions to critical supply chains are some examples of the kinds of emergencies that could happen.

Recognise the risks and prepare your household.

- How could these risks affect you and your household?
- Is your home, town or city exposed to any risks?
- Are you exposed to the risk more than other people?

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2

Make a plan

- Use the checklist in this booklet to get ready for an emergency.
- Keep a list of regular medication you or your family require.
- Keep a copy of important numbers and documents in a safe and accessible place.
- Plan how you will keep animals safe in an emergency situation.



3

Stay connected

It is important you connect with family, friends and neighbours, to ensure a community-based approach to your safety and preparedness.

- Keep important emergency, family, and friends' contact numbers in a safe and accessible place.
- Talk to your neighbours to discuss how you might work together and share information and resources in the event of an emergency.
- Talk to your service provider if you are living in supported accommodation or temporary housing.
- Keep the contact details of any local community groups in your area to seek support if needed.
- Consider learning some basic first aid skills.
- Listen to local radio to stay up to date on conditions.

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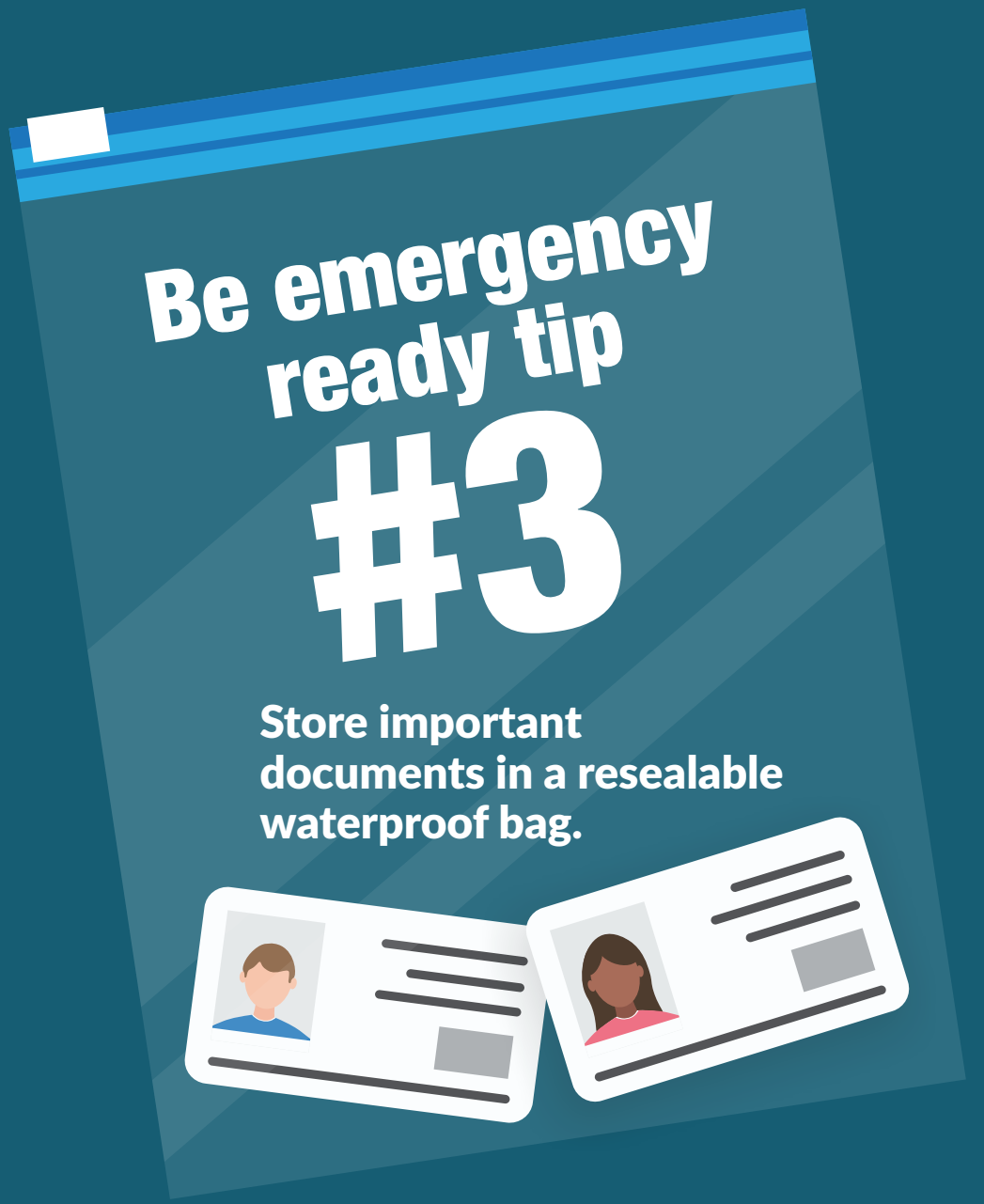

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Make a plan

Maintaining an adequate supply of essential items is a great way to prepare for any emergency.

Having even a small amount of essential items can help you through an unexpected situation if everyday supplies are disrupted or unavailable.

The checklist that follows contains items that you and your household may need in the event of an emergency where you may lose power or water.

You may have many of these items in your household already. These items can be built up over time and stored in a safe and dry place for easy access if needed.

The checklist could help you stay safe and manage a range of emergency situations.

Do what you can:
Some preparation is better than no preparation at all.

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Your checklist

Water

- ☐ Each person needs 2–3 litres of drinking water each day.
- ☐ Keep some bottled water in a cool, dark place.
- ☐ Only store it for as long as the expiry date on the bottle.

Food

- ☐ Keep a supply of non-perishable food on hand.
- ☐ Rotate food so nothing goes past its expiry date.
- ☐ Consider dietary needs of everyone in your household, including small children and pets.
- ☐ If you use baby formula, have an extra supply of ready-to-feed formula available.
- ☐ Use fresh food and food kept in the fridge first.

Light and heat

- ☐ Have an alternative way to keep warm, such as blankets, sleeping bags, and emergency thermal blankets.
- ☐ Close windows and doors and stay in one room for warmth.
- ☐ Keep a torch or lamp with spare batteries.
- ☐ Keep matches or a lighter in a safe place.
- ☐ Know the location of gas and electricity shutoff points.
- ☐ Know how to turn off gas and electricity and note your Meter Point Reference Number (MPRN) and Gas Point Registration Number (GPRN) from your bill.

Medicine

- ☐ Keep prescription medicines up to date, if possible.
- ☐ Keep copies of your prescriptions and details of any medical conditions.
- ☐ Have a first aid kit ready.

Hygiene

- ☐ Keep sanitary and hygiene products for everyone in your household.

If you need to evacuate

- ☐ Take medication and hygiene items.
- ☐ Take warm and waterproof clothing.
- ☐ Take your mobile phone and charger.
- ☐ Bring personal identification and key documents.
- ☐ Take cash and debit or credit cards, if possible.

Stay connected

- ☐ Keep a battery, wind-up or solar radio and spare batteries or use a car radio as backup.
- ☐ Have power banks ready for recharging phones.

Important items

- ☐ Keep documents in a waterproof bag including:
  - Birth certificates, passports, driving licences
  - Insurance details, medical information
  - Emergency contacts
- ☐ Keep strong plastic bags for valuables and sentimental items.
- ☐ Have a road map in case GPS is unavailable.
- ☐ Keep spare keys for home and car.

Be emergency ready tip #4



The number to dial in an emergency is 112 or 999.

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Support your community

As a community, it is important that we support the people who need it most, and ensure they know we are there to help if required.

Support can be something as simple as checking in on a family member, neighbour or friend, if it is safe to do so. Letting them know you are there can help someone feeling isolated or vulnerable.

Contacting emergency services

In an emergency dial **112** or **999**. The emergency operator will ask which emergency service you need, and connect you with them immediately. It is important to keep your phone on as the emergency services may need to call you back to get more information. In a medical emergency, continue to monitor the person's condition and call back if it changes.

Make sure all members of your household know your Eircode.

You can find your Eircode at www.eircode.ie.

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If you need to leave home

Despite all precautions, it may still be necessary to leave your home or business. Knowing what to do is a key part of being prepared and it can make a real difference. Having a written plan can be helpful, especially in situations where phones, internet or electricity are not available.

Key steps

- Identify what you would need to take with you if you had to leave home.
- Complete the final pages of this booklet, keep them safe, and save a photo of them on your phone.
- Always cooperate with instructions from emergency services and local authorities.
- Be aware of the potential risks that you might face, listen to local radio to stay up to date on conditions where possible.
- Stay connected with the people who can help in an emergency.
- Ensure important documents are easily accessible and kept somewhere safe. A resealable waterproof bag is also recommended.

Important contact numbers

Contact name	Contact number
ESB Networks	LoCall 1800 372 999
Uisce Éireann	LoCall 1800 278 278
Gas Networks Ireland	LoCall 1800 20 50 50
Local Authority	
Local Garda Station	
Doctor	
Insurance Company and Policy Number	

Utilities

If you have time and it is safe to do so, you may need to turn off the mains water, gas or electric to your home during an emergency. Familiarise yourself with where these are located.

Service	Location
Water	
Gas	
Electricity	

Warning: You can turn the water and electricity back on yourself, but not the gas supply. This must be done by a qualified engineer.

Cut out and keep card

Emergency 112/999

Important Eircodes

Eircode	Location

Emergency contacts

These could include family, schools, childcare and employers.

Contact name	Number

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This booklet is available on the official government website at gov.ie/BeEmergencyReady. Copies can be obtained by emailing oep@defence.ie or by writing to the Office of Emergency Planning, National Emergency Coordination Centre, Agriculture House (2 East), Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

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