

Volunteer TN Commission Emergency Preparedness Overview



Emergency Preparedness Overview

Topics:

[Are You Prepared for a Disaster?](#)

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[Identify Our Local Risks & Hazards](#)

[Emergency Preparedness Actions](#)

[Make an Emergency Plan](#)

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[Stay Informed - Alerts & Apps](#)

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[Community Emergency Response Teams - CERT](#)



Volunteer TN Commission
Emergency Preparedness



Volunteer Tennessee Roles



So, Are We Really Prepared for a Disaster?



Volunteer Tennessee – Roles in a Disaster

- As you know, [Volunteer Tennessee](#) is the Governor's Commission on **Volunteerism and Community Service**.
- **But did you know** Volunteer Tennessee is the State agency for **volunteers and donations in times of disaster** under the Tennessee Emergency Management Plan (TEMP) ESF-14
- Volunteer Tennessee - [Disaster Volunteer Services](#) also provides guidance and acts as a liaison to FEMA for locally led **CERT programs** in Tennessee.



TEMA
Emergency
Operations
Center



2020 Cookeville
Tornado volunteers



Volunteer Tennessee - Disaster Volunteer Services

- **Don Sowers is the Manager of Disaster Volunteer Services and Acting TN State CERT Coordinator**
- **Assists TEMA and Coordinates** statewide volunteer response in the event of a disaster in Tennessee
- **Administrative Liaison** for all local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs in Tennessee to FEMA.
- **Facilitates CERT program formation**, registration, guidance, information, communications, training, and collaboration among local CERT programs.
- **Assists state and local government agencies, schools, and other organizations** with Disaster Volunteer response and CERT Program activities.
- **Educator** – Dr. Sowers is an Adjunct Instructor for PRST-6721 Managing Emergency Volunteers in Disasters at Tennessee Tech University



Don Sowers



Volunteer Tennessee – Disaster Services Webpages

The screenshot shows the Volunteer Tennessee website with a navigation menu including 'About Us', 'AmeriCorps', 'Funding Opportunities', 'Events & Trainings', 'Disaster Services', 'Volunteer', and 'Newsroom'. A search bar is located at the top right. The main content area is titled 'Disaster Services' and features a sidebar on the left with a 'Disaster Services' section containing links for 'Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)', 'Disaster Recovery Resources', 'Disaster Volunteer Opportunities', 'Disaster Donations', and 'Emergency Preparedness Information'. The main content includes three donation buttons: 'Volunteer to Help with #Helene Recovery', 'TEMA: Donation Needs & Donation Locations', and 'Donate to the United Way of the East Tennessee Highlands' Disaster Relief Fund'. Below these is a section for 'Hurricane Helene Recovery Efforts' with text about the September 27, 2024, impact and a link to the Tennessee Emergency Management website. It also mentions a 'Disaster Hotline' and provides contact information. A 'RECOVERY RESOURCES' section lists links for FEMA, TEMA's Hurricane Helene Response webpage, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Hotline, and a Crisis Cleanup service. Logos for 'VOLUNTEER TENNESSEE' and 'CERT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM' are also visible.

[Volunteer Tennessee Disaster Services webpages](https://www.tn.gov/volunteer-tennessee/disaster-services.html)



<https://www.tn.gov/volunteer-tennessee/disaster-services.html>

Volunteer TN Commission Emergency Preparedness



Know Your Risks & Hazards



Understand the Risks and Hazards in Tennessee

[Tennessee Emergency Management Agency \(TEMA\)](#) [Threats and Hazards webpage](#)

“No matter where you live in Tennessee, it is important to learn about the potential hazards near you and how to receive emergency alerts.”

Chris Johnson – TEMA Assistant Director.



[Chris Johnson – TEMA Assistant Director \(21 sec. video\)](#)

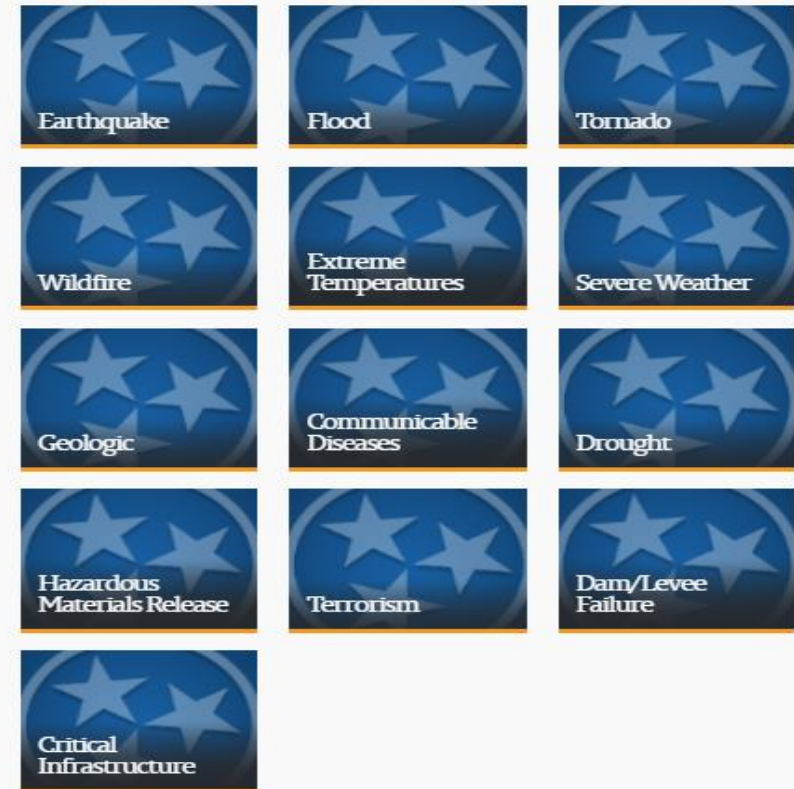


Tennessee Threats

Tennessee's unique geographical location exposes the state and its citizens to severe weather and other threats. The Tennessee Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies 13 hazards of prime concern for the foundation of long-term disaster planning and strategy.

These 13 threats include: Drought, Earthquake, Extreme Temperatures, Wildfire, Flood, Geologic, Severe Weather, Tornado, Communicable Disease, Dam/levee Failure, Hazardous Material Release, Terrorism, and Critical Infrastructure.

The profiles include hazard descriptions, actions citizens can take to protect their lives, families, communities, and properties, and key terms related to the hazards.



In TN, there are 13 hazards of prime concern

Identify Your Local Risks and Hazards

The [FEMA Region 4 – Tennessee Info](#) and [Risk Reduction in Tennessee](#) webpages have information to help you prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters specific to your location. Use them to find local disaster recovery centers, flood maps, fact sheets, FEMA contacts, and other resources.

[Identify what disasters can impact you](#) and what steps you should take to prepare for emergencies.



[USGS – Be Prepared for the Natural Hazards We Might Face](#)
[YouTube video \(2:03 min.\)](#)

[FEMA Be Informed - Disasters and Emergencies](#)

Are You Really Prepared for a...?

TORNADO !!!



[How to Prepare for a Tornado](#)

TORNADO PREPAREDNESS TIPS

KNOW

YOUR AREA'S
TORNADO RISK
& THE SIGNS
OF A TORNADO



HAVE

MULTIPLE WAYS
TO RECEIVE
WEATHER
ALERTS



IDENTIFY

AND PRACTICE
GOING TO A
SAFE
SHELTER



STAY

IN AN INTERIOR
ROOM AWAY
FROM WINDOWS
AND DOORS



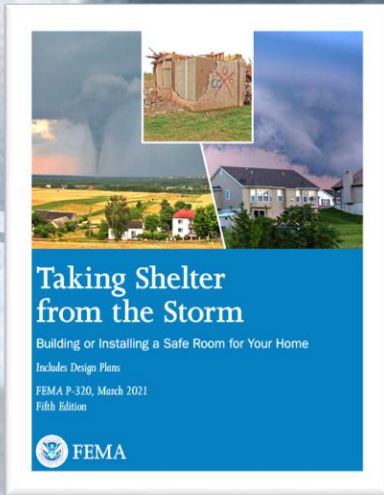
Turn on your battery-operated or hand-crank radio



*Take weather alerts seriously
(35 sec. ASL Video)*



STORM SHELTERS



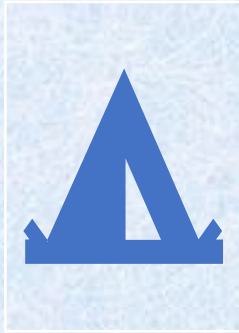
**Before you
need to take
shelter...**

- Pre-identify your shelter location at home and work.
- Go to your shelter quickly!
- Know & practice your evacuation routes
- Build Grab-n-Go bags
- Have extra food and water!
- Identify local emergency broadcasts for TV, radio, websites, and apps.
- Tennessee Storm Shelters are established by local counties during severe weather in TN.

What does it really mean to “Shelter-in-Place?”



Be prepared to Shelter-in-Place at home or at work for at least 48 hours.

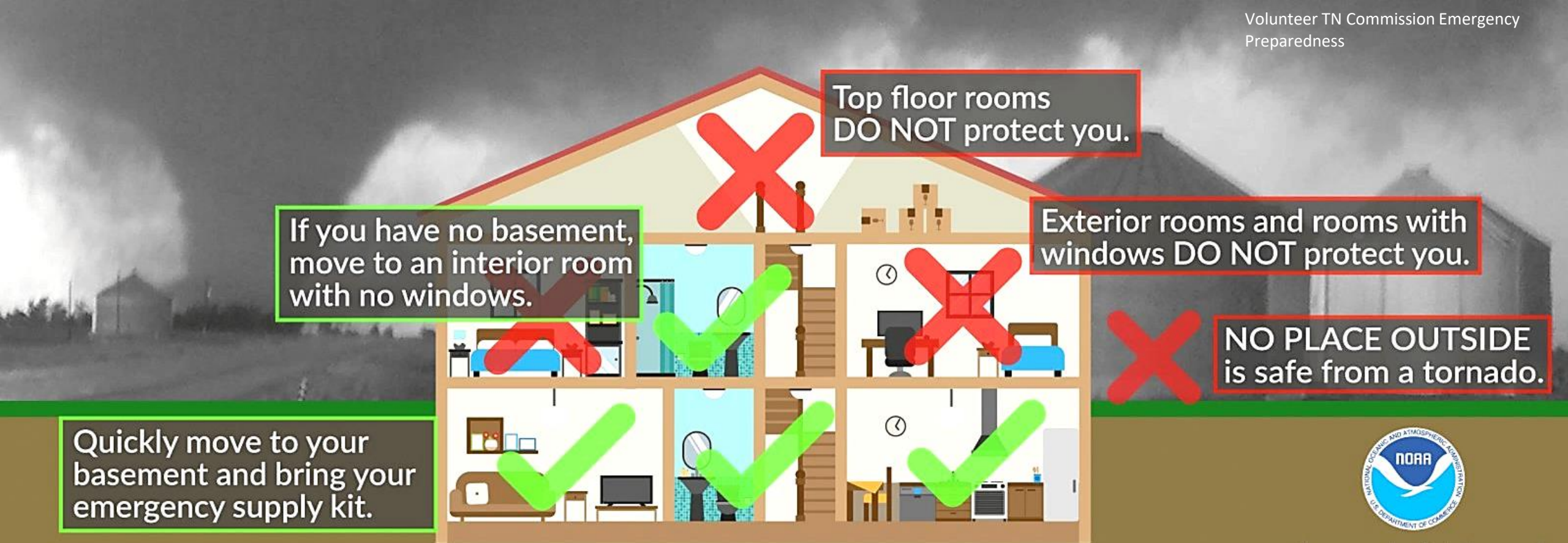


Shelter in place means finding a safe location indoors and staying there until you are given an “all clear” or told to evacuate.



You may be asked to shelter in place because of an active shooter, tornado, chemical, radiological, or another hazard.





Tennessee Experiences Tornadoes Each Year!

Tornado Safety Learn how to stay safe during a tornado, and how to improve your home's ability to withstand tornadoes from the **American Red Cross**.

Thunderstorms can bring:

Strong winds 💧 **Flash flooding** ⚡ **Lightning**

SEVERE WEATHER & FLOODS

MYTHS VS. FACTS

MYTH: "Homeowners or renters insurance will cover my home and belongings if they are damaged by flood waters."

FACT: Most homeowners and renters insurance policies do not cover damages to a structure or contents in the event of a flood. Only a flood insurance policy will cover flood damage.

MYTH: "I don't need flood insurance because FEMA assistance will cover my damages."

FACT: Not everyone will qualify for FEMA assistance after a disaster. Even if a federal Disaster Declaration is made, post-disaster FEMA grants average less than \$8,000. Remember: just one inch of water in a home can cause \$25,000 of damage.

MYTH: "I rent my home. Only homeowners can purchase flood insurance."

FACT: Most homeowners, renters and businesses in NFIP participating communities can purchase flood insurance. For a list of participating communities in Tennessee, visit www.fema.gov.

MYTH: "I can wait and get flood insurance immediately before a storm and still be covered."

FACT: While you can purchase flood insurance at any time, NFIP policies usually have a 30-day waiting period before the policy takes effect. If you purchase a private flood policy, be sure to ask about the waiting period.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM
floodsmart.gov

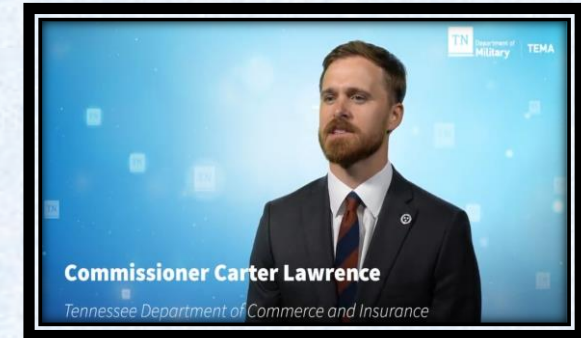
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholders who have questions about their flood insurance policy or the claims process, and disaster survivors who have general questions about the National Flood Insurance Program, can contact a NFIP representative by calling the NFIP Call Center toll-free at 1-800-427-4661.

For individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability, call 711 (TTY and other services are available). For VRS, please call 1-866-337-4262.

RETHINK FLOOD INSURANCE, TENNESSEE!
A Consumer's Guide to Flood Insurance

TN Department of Commerce & Insurance
500 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
(615) 741-2218
www.tn.gov/commerce
/TennesseeCommerceAndInsurance
/TNCommerceInsur
@tncommerceinsur

TN Department of Commerce & Insurance
Authorization No. 336594 | 1,000 copies | July, 2021
This public document was reproduced at a cost of \$0.12 per copy.



[Consider Flood and Earthquake Insurance for your home \(40 sec. Video\)](#)



[Severe Weather Preparedness \(1:23 min. Video\)](#)

[TN Department of Commerce & Insurance – Flood Insurance Brochure](#)

SEVERE WEATHER



[Life Saving Skills: Are You Prepared For A Power Outage? \(Video 0:35\)](#)

[How to Stay Safe When a Power Outage Threatens pdf](#)

Make sure you have...

- ✓ A flashlight
- ✓ A battery or solar powered phone charger
- ✓ A first aid kit
- ✓ A battery or hand crank powered radio
- ✓ Spare batteries
- ✓ And at least a **3-day supply** of food, water, and medications

FLOODS IN TENNESSEE



Water rushes past the Waverly, TN Junior High School sign after flooding on August 21, 2021. (WSMV photo).

Tragically, 20 people died during this flood event.

Tennessee has Experienced Flooding Every Year since 2015

- ✓ Have different ways to receive weather alerts
- ✓ Follow directions from emergency officials
- ⊘ NEVER try to drive on flooded roads.



[Flood safety/warning tips \(3:02 min. video\)](#) in American Sign Language (ASL) with closed captioning available in multiple languages.

FLOOD DEATHS HAPPEN IN VEHICLES

Take weather alerts seriously. Almost half of all flash flood deaths happen in vehicles!



On September 26, 2024, in Northeast Tennessee there were heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding due to Hurricane Helene.

This weather event claimed many lives and left significant damage. Resources and updates for survivors can be found on the

[TEMA website](#)

[Volunteer Tennessee Disaster Recovery Resources webpage](#)

A Federal Disaster Declaration was granted to counties recovering from the 2024 flooding in Northeast Tennessee.

[TEMA press release](#)

When Evacuation becomes necessary...



**Leave
Immediately!**

- Prioritize leaving your current location. Get away quickly!
- Know your designated evacuation routes
- Pre-select two meeting points
- Stay Updated
- Take everyone's Grab-n-Go bags
- Bring extra food and water!
- Sheltering - Storm shelters are established by local counties during severe weather in TN.

Flood Safety Tips:

 Slow down & allow extra space between vehicles.

 "Turn Around, Don't Drown!"

 Never drive around a barricade.

 Keep gas tanks at least half full.



[If you see a flooded road, Turn Around and Don't Drown! \(30 sec. video\)](#)

National Weather Service
[Learn the types of flooding which are typical in Tennessee](#)
and how to protect yourself,
your family and your home.

Is your Office Prepared for a...?



Fire !!!



Does your Office Participate in Fire Drills?

A fire at your workplace can be devastating. Employers need to ensure:

- There are clear fire escape plans on every level of a building
- Staff is taught about escape routes and fire extinguishers
- And that you conduct regular emergency drills
- Pre-identify an Evacuation Rally Point!



[The Office Fire Drill video 4:56 min.](#)

Does your Office Have a Fire Escape Plan?



Have a home fire escape plan for everyone in your home. Some people may need help waking up or getting outside. Plan for your abilities!

Fire won't wait.
Plan your escape at fpw.org.



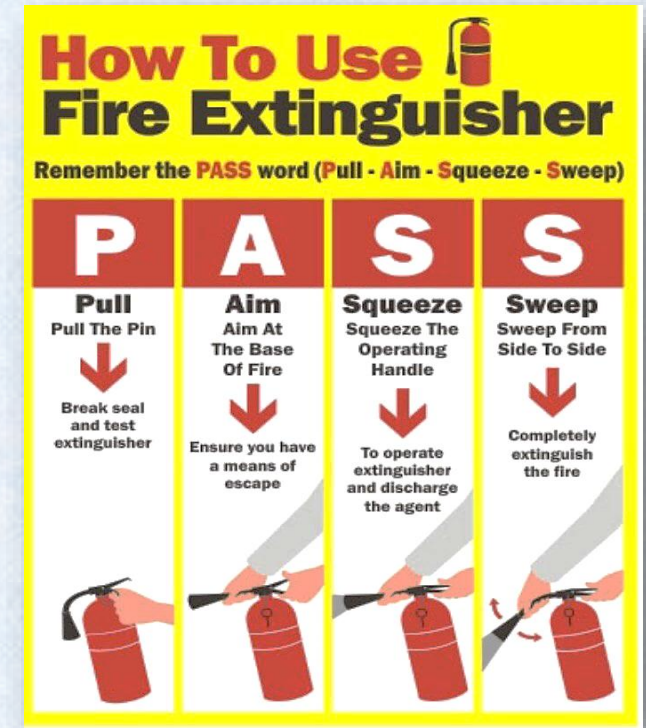
Is there a special needs person at work or in your household?

Have and practice a fire escape plan that safeguards everyone at home and work which gets everyone out in 2-minutes!

Make sure you know two ways out of each room.

[How to make a home fire escape plan](#)

Do you Know Where your Fire Extinguishers are Located? ... And How to Use Them?



The people in green vests are taking
FREE Local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training



Do you Have a WORKING Smoke Alarm?



[Request an American Red Cross of Tennessee appointment for free smoke alarms and installation.](#)



Working Smoke alarms are much faster than a fire truck!



[Replace Smoke Alarm and CO Detector batteries at least once per year!](#)

How to Check your Smoke Alarm

Home fires claim seven lives every day, but having working smoke alarms can [cut the risk of death by half](#).



[SoundtheAlarm.org/Tennessee](https://www.SoundtheAlarm.org/Tennessee)

How to check your smoke alarm:

- 1** Press the “**test**” button.
- 2** Listen for **3 beeps** to indicate it’s working.
- 3** **Check the date** to see if it’s less than 10 years old.



Test your smoke alarms and [Carbon Monoxide](#) detectors monthly!



**Questions:
If a Fire starts
in this
Building
Do you know
what to say to
9-1-1-?**



9-1-1 operator questions.



Please do not Google the answers.



I will randomly call on people with raised hands.



If a Fire Starts ... Q's

A kitchen fire is getting out of control...You need to call 9-1-1

The operator asks you:

What is your emergency?

What exactly is on fire?

What is the address here?

What floor are we on?

What is the name of this building?

Where exactly in the building is the fire located?

What side of the building is the closest entrance?

(North, South, East or West?)

Are people still inside the building?



**Answers:
If a Fire starts
in this
Building
Do you know
what to say to
9-1-1-?**



601 College Street, Room 103-C, Clarksville



**Morgan University Center
Austin Peay State University**



North, South, East or West?

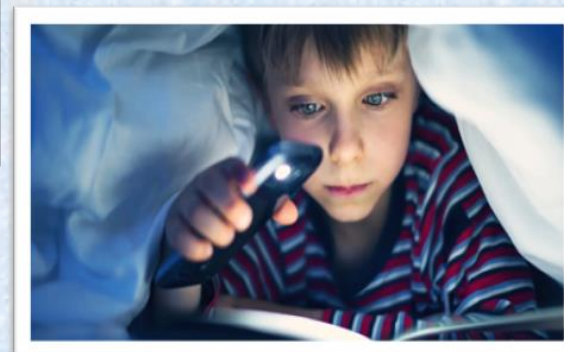
If a Fire Starts in this Building ... (continued)

Without looking around, point to the nearest emergency exit... other than where you entered the building?

The power just went out...

Do you have a flashlight or something you can use as a flashlight with you right now?

The first person to turn on a flashlight or cell phone flashlight and point it towards me wins.



If you live near an area prone to fires...

CLEAR THE AREA AROUND YOUR HOME
of ANYTHING that will BURN.

This includes wood piles, dry leaves, newspapers, & other brush.



Get prepared at [READY.GOV](https://www.ready.gov)

Ready ✓



Stay Informed Before A Wildfire

Receiving timely information about weather conditions or other emergency events can make all the difference in knowing when to take action to be safe.

- Monitor the weather reports provided by your local news radio and TV stations.
- Sign up for local emergency notifications for your community to receive either text message or email alerts.
- Always have extra batteries for a battery-operated radio and your cell phone.



[Wildfires](#) can spread quickly and put your life in danger. [#BeReady](#) before they strike!

Create a fire-resistant zone at least 30 feet around your home, have a go-bag with supplies, and know your evacuation routes. More tips: <http://ready.gov/wildfires>

Are You Aware of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning?

- ❌ Never use a gas stove or oven to heat your home or workplace.
- ❌ Never use a charcoal grill inside for cooking food.
- ❌ Never plug a portable generator into a electrical wall outlet!
- ✅ Only use a generator outside and keep it at least 20 feet away from doors & windows.

Consumer Safety Commission - Portable Generator Hazards



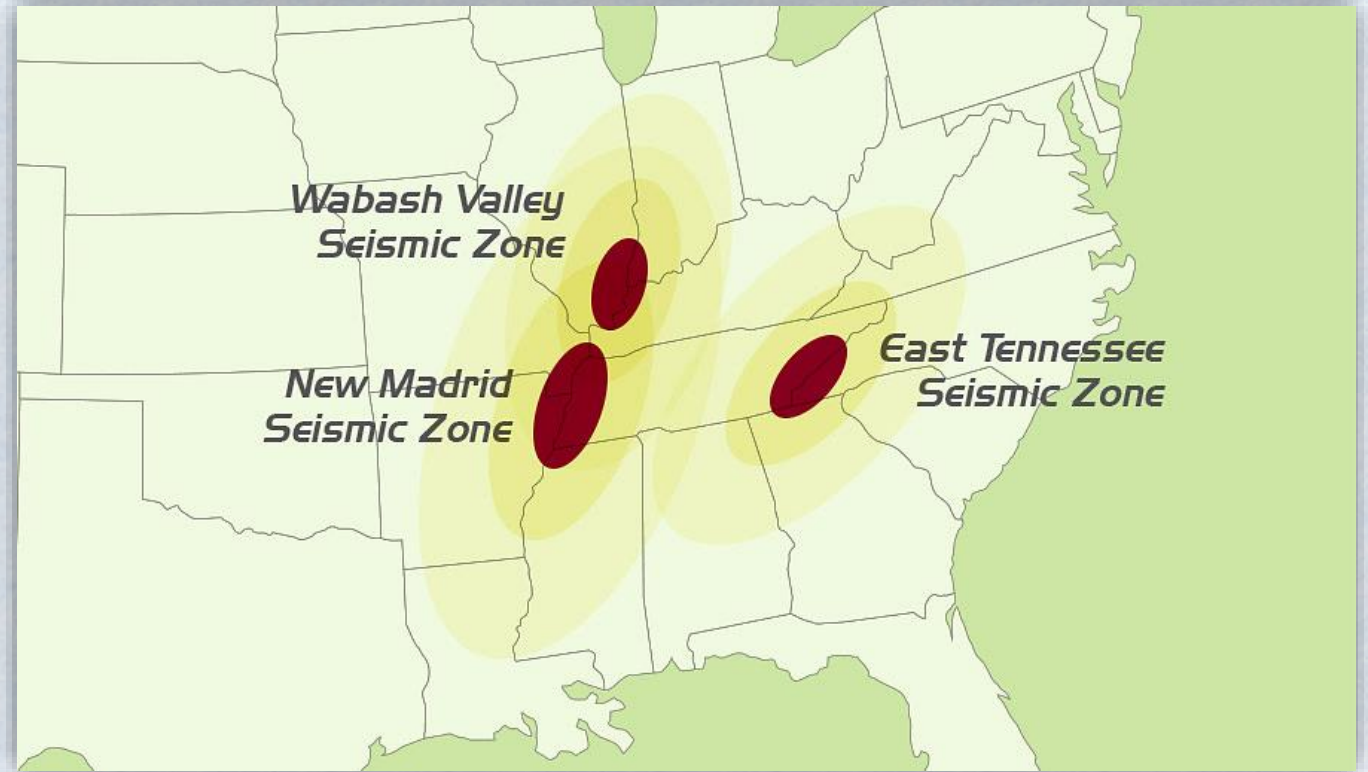
Are There Many Earthquakes in Tennessee?

Yes, small Earthquakes occur nearly everyday.

And a major earthquake, though rare, could affect all Tennesseans!

[USGS – Earthquake Hazards Program](#)

When an earthquake occurs, log on to the USGS website [Did You Feel It?](#)



[Tennessee Earthquake Risk - Central United States Earthquake Consortium \(CUSEC\)](#)



How to Survive an Earthquake...

Taking [*Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety*](#) can minimize the impact to your home or workplace and help you Survive an Earthquake!

This [*guide*](#) also gives you details on what to do before, during, and after an earthquake.



[*C.U.S.E.C.
Earthquake Safety
& Preparedness
Webpage*](#)



Earthquakes - Drop, Cover, and Hold ON!

If you are inside a building, such as an office or library, during an Earthquake...

Lighting fixtures and ceiling tiles may be the first things to fall.

Be sure to secure cabinets to walls and store heavy objects low to the floor before a quake hits.



Earthquakes - Drop, Cover, and Hold ON!

**During an
Earthquake...**

**Secure yourself
and Co-workers**

Drop to the Floor

Take Cover - Get

Under a Desk or

Something Sturdy

Hold on!



Earthquakes... Do NOT Run Outside!

**Unless the building
is collapsing,
Do NOT
immediately run
outside as Falling
Bricks, Glass, or
Debris could
Seriously Injure You!**



Photo credit - KSL News Radio Salt Lake City, UT - 2020



Earthquake Myths!

- [It was Earthquake Weather](#) - FALSE! - Earthquakes can happen in any weather conditions. They are **NOT related to weather** or time of day.
- [Earthquake Prediction](#) - FALSE! - There is **NO way to predict** earthquakes by humans or animals.
- [Stand in a Doorway](#) - FALSE! - Standing in a doorway is **NOT as good as being under something sturdy** like a table or desk. And you can be hit by a swinging door.
- [Triangle of Life](#) - FALSE! - When a building collapses, sometimes a small void space is created. This has been referred to in the media as the Triangle of Life. **But it does NOT offer protection from falling debris!** Instead, **DROP - COVER - HOLD ON!**



Emergency Preparedness Actions



Make a Family & Workplace Emergency Plan



The [*Are You Ready?*](#) guide provides detailed information about how to best prepare for disasters for families and communities. Learn general disaster preparedness tips and best practices to inform your planning.

[*FEMA - Make a Plan Fillable Form*](#)

[*TN Dept. of Health - Healthy Homes - Prepare for Emergencies*](#)

Emergency Plan – Have a Discussion



During your planning, you should talk with your family and co-workers about **emergencies that are most likely to happen** where you live or work and how you will respond.

Decide what each person will do when an emergency happens.

It is important to know your local emergency number if the 911 system ever fail.



Include Everyone in Your Planning



[Ready.gov/disability](https://www.ready.gov/disability)

[FEMA Prep Talk - We Succeed or Fail Together by Vance Taylor \(Video 18:25 min.\)](#)

For people with access and functional needs and their families, it is important to **consider individual circumstances** and their needs to effectively prepare for emergencies and disasters. [If you use a wheelchair](#), add spare tires and an air compressor to your emergency kit to make sure you can stay mobile in the event of an emergency. [FEMA - Disaster Awareness for People with Disabilities webinar](#).

And there is a [FEMA PSA](#) with personal preparedness tips for people with disabilities in the event of a disaster. This PSA has open captions, a certified deaf interpreter, and emphasizes the [Ready Campaign Four Building Blocks](#) of preparedness - **Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit, and Get Involved.**

Include the Kids in Your Planning



[Family Communication Plan](#)

[Classroom material for grades 1-12](#)

[CDC – School Preparedness](#)

Disasters can leave children and teens feeling frightened, confused and insecure. Their responses can be quite varied. It is important to not only recognize these reactions, but also help children cope with their emotions. [FEMA - Helping Children Cope](#)

Discuss with your children, co-workers, or students what to do in an emergency. [Ready Kids Publications](#). And see [What you should know about Preparing Kids for Emergencies](#).

And just in case you are separated in a disaster, download the Family [Communication Plan for Kids](#) template designed for children to organize emergency contact phone numbers and identify an emergency meeting place. <https://www.ready.gov/plan-form>

Include Older Adults in Your Planning



Learn what steps older adults can take to prepare.
[**Tips for Older Adults pdf**](#)

We encourage you to [**Take Control in 1, 2, 3**](#). While this FEMA campaign is designed for [**Older Adults**](#), it is accessible and inclusive to help everyone.

Older adults can face greater risks when it comes to extreme weather events and emergencies.



Assess needs – Does an older adult need medical devices or refrigerated medicines? Do you have a plan for refrigeration if you lose power?



Make a plan – Include them in your planning.



Engage their support network ahead of time. Have important info and phone numbers handy.

Tip: Older adults should develop a phone call chain of at least three people to rely on during an emergency.

Have You Planned for Your Pets?



[How to Keep Your Pets Safe During a Disaster](#)

[FEMA Prepare Your Pets brochure](#)

Ready.gov/animals

[ASPCA Pet Care – Disaster Preparedness](#)

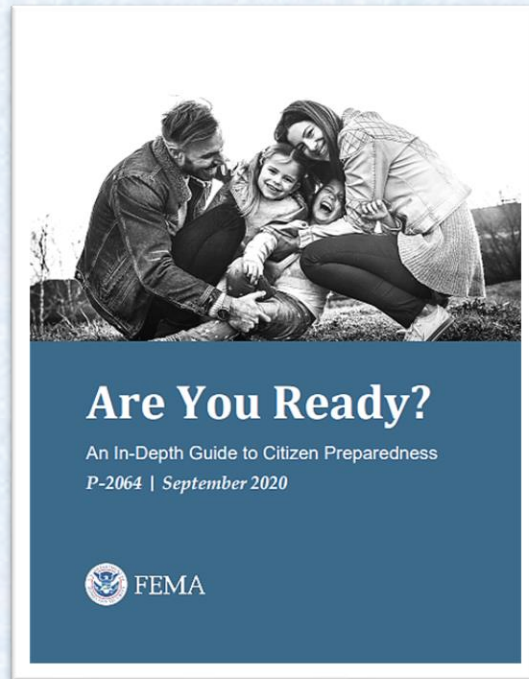
[FEMA Pet Preparedness Webinars](#)

[RedCross.org Pet Preparedness](#)

Include: Pet food, Water Bowls, Medicine, and a Collar with an ID tag.

- ❖ **Microchip** and have a recent **Photo** handy of you and your pet in case you are separated.
- ❖ Bring **Leashes/Harnesses/Carriers** for each pet.
- ❖ Add **Grooming items** and Pet shampoo, in case your pet needs some cleaning up.
- ❖ Include pet **Litter/Box/Waste Bags**, and other items to provide for your pet's **sanitation needs**.

Emergency Planning Templates

This is a screenshot of the 'Ready.gov' website. The page is titled 'Family Emergency Communication Plan'. It includes a search bar, navigation tabs for 'Disasters and Emergencies', 'Make a Plan', 'Ready Communities', 'Ready Business', 'Ready Kids', and 'Resources'. The main content area has a 'Make a Plan' section with a 'Plan Ahead' sub-section. Below this is a 'Household Information' form with fields for 'Home # (optional)', 'Address (optional)', and 'Family Members'. The 'Family Members' section has a table with columns for 'Name (optional)', 'Mobile # (optional)', and '123-456-7890'.This is a screenshot of the 'Healthy Homes - Prepare for Emergencies' form from the Tennessee Department of Health. The page has a blue header with the TN Department of Health logo and a search bar. The main content area is titled 'Healthy Homes - Prepare for Emergencies' and includes a 'Planning ahead' section with a list of items to check, such as 'Water', 'Food', 'Medicine', and 'Evacuation'. There is also a 'Planning ahead' section with a photo of a family and the text 'It's Not Luck. It's Being Prepared.'.

The [**Are You Ready?**](#) guide provides detailed information about how to best prepare for disasters for families and communities. Learn general disaster preparedness tips and best practices to inform your planning.

[**Ready.gov - Family Emergency Communication Plan PDF**](#)

[**FEMA - Make a Plan Fillable Form**](#)

[**TN Dept. of Health - Healthy Homes - Prepare for Emergencies**](#)

Family Emergency Preparedness Planning

Have you ever thought about...
“**What is the plan** if you at work or your family isn’t home when disaster strikes?”

Lets’ take a few minutes to create disaster plans for the places where you and your family spend the most time, so **everyone knows where to go and exactly what to do.**

[*FEMA – How to Make a Plan*](#)



LEARN ABOUT DISASTER PLANS FOR

Your work

Your children's school

Your medical and/or transportation provider

Other places where your family spends time



Emergency Planning ... Completing the forms

BE SMART. TAKE PART. CREATE YOUR FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLAN

Join with others to prepare for emergencies and participate in America's PrepareAthon! | ready.gov/prepare

Creating your *Family Emergency Communication Plan* starts with one simple question: "What if?"

"What if something happens and I'm not with my family?" "Will I be able to reach them?" "How will I know they are safe?" "How can I let them know I'm OK?" During a disaster, you will need to send and receive information from your family.

Communication networks, such as mobile phones and computers, could be unreliable during disasters, and electricity could be disrupted. Planning in advance will help ensure that all the members of your household—including children and people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, as well as outside caregivers—know how to reach each other and where to meet up in an emergency. Planning starts with three easy steps:

- 1. COLLECT.**
Create a paper copy of the contact information for your family and other important people/offices, such as medical facilities, doctors, schools, or service providers.
- 2. SHARE.**
Make sure everyone carries a copy in his or her backpack, purse, or wallet. If you complete your *Family Emergency Communication Plan* online at ready.gov/make-a-plan, you can print it onto a wallet-sized card. You should also post a copy in a central location in your home, such as your refrigerator or family bulletin board.
- 3. PRACTICE.**
Have regular household meetings to review and practice your plan.

TEXT IS BEST!
If you are using a mobile phone, a text message may get through when a phone call will not. This is because a text message requires far less bandwidth than a phone call. Text messages may also save and then send automatically as soon as capacity becomes available.

July 2015

The following sections will guide you through the process to create and practice your *Family Emergency Communication Plan*.

COLLECT INFORMATION

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Write down phone numbers and email addresses for everyone in your household. Having this important information written down will help you reconnect with others in case you don't have your mobile device or computer with you or if the battery runs down. If you have a household member who is Deaf or hard of hearing, or who has a speech disability and uses traditional or video relay service (VRS), include information on how to connect through relay services on a landline phone, mobile device, or computer.

SCHOOL, CHILDCARE, CAREGIVER, AND WORKPLACE EMERGENCY PLANS

Because a disaster can strike during school or work hours, you need to know their emergency response plans and how to stay informed. Discuss these plans with children, and let them know who could pick them up in an emergency. Make sure your household members with phones are signed up for alerts and warnings from their school, workplace, and/or local government. To find out more about how to sign up, see *Be Smart, Know Your Alerts and Warnings* at <http://usa.gov/1BDIze>. For children without mobile phones, make sure they know to follow instructions from a responsible adult, such as a teacher or principal.

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT

It is also important to identify someone outside of your community or State who can act as a central point of contact to help your household reconnect. In a disaster, it may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town because local phone lines can be jammed.

EMERGENCY MEETING PLACES

Decide on safe, familiar places where your family can go for protection or to reunite. Make sure these locations are accessible for household members with disabilities or access and functional needs. If you have pets or service animals, think about animal-friendly locations. Identify the following places:

- In your home:* If you live in an area where tornadoes, hurricanes, or other high-wind storms can happen, make sure everyone knows where to go for protection. This could be a small, interior, windowless room, such as a closet or bathroom, on the lowest level of a sturdy building, or a tornado safe room or storm shelter.
- In your neighborhood:* This is a place in your neighborhood where your household members will meet if there is a fire or other emergency and you need to leave your home. The meeting place could be a big tree, a mailbox at the end of the driveway, or a neighbor's house.
- Outside of your neighborhood:* This is a place where your family will meet if a disaster happens when you're not at home and you can't get back to your home. This could be a library, community center, house of worship, or family friend's home.

FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLAN

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Home #:
Address:

Name: Mobile #:
Other # or social media:
Email:
Important medical or other information:

Name: Mobile #:
Other # or social media:
Email:
Important medical or other information:

Name: Mobile #:
Other # or social media:
Email:
Important medical or other information:

SCHOOL, CHILDCARE, CAREGIVER, AND WORKPLACE EMERGENCY PLANS

Name:
Address:
Emergency/Hotline #:
Website:
Emergency Plan/Pick-Up:

[Ready.gov - Family Emergency Communication Plan PDF](#)

Let's start with "Collect Household Information" and "Communication Plan" Sections



Go-Kits



When a disaster happens ...

- You and your family may
- be on your own
- for two weeks or more!

✓ **Build a 2-Weeks Ready kit** at home and smaller Go-Kits for work, school, and vehicles.

✓ **Check in with neighbors** to see how to help each other before and after a storm.

✓ **Evacuation - Know When and Where to Go**

Create a Go-Kit Checklist

Go-Kits Should Include:

- Flashlight, chargers, and batteries.
- Pet supplies, blankets, and cash.
- Food, snacks, and water for several days.
- Some sturdy shoes, long-sleeved shirts, pants, jacket, and a hat.

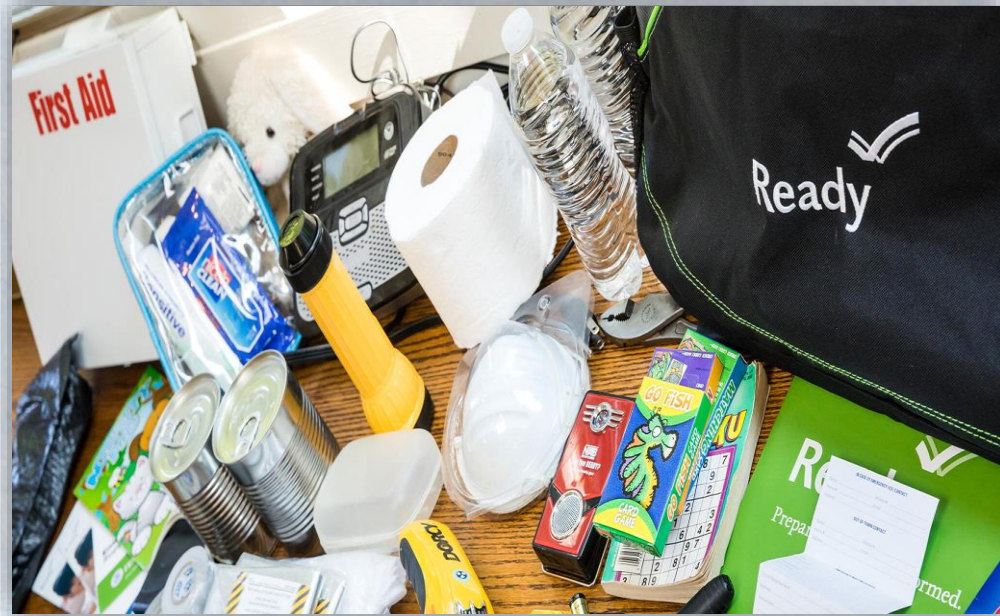
[Sample Go-Kit Checklist](#), [TEMA Go-Kit Checklist](#), [FEMA - How to Build a Go-Kit](#)

[How to Pack an Emergency Kit for Any Disaster](#) and being prepared means having your own [food](#), [water](#), [personal items](#), and [other supplies](#) to last for several days.



Where do you have Go-Kits?

Make sure you have an emergency kit at home, at work, and in your vehicle. So, just in case you need to “Shelter-in-Place” you will already have everything you need .



[Personal 72-hour Go-Kit](https://www.ready.gov/kit)
<https://www.ready.gov/kit>

Kit Storage Locations:

At Home?



At Work?



And in your Vehicle?



In an Evacuation...Remember your Go-Kits!

If you need to Evacuate,
Make sure you already have an Emergency Kit in your vehicle!



[Vehicle Go-Kit](https://www.ready.gov/car)

<https://www.ready.gov/car>

3 things
to keep in your
car this winter:



Sand



Red
Cloth



Flashlight



Include a First-Aid Kit, Cash, and Prescriptions!



Put together a [First-Aid Kit](#) for your home, work, and your vehicle.



Do NOT forget extra cash and your

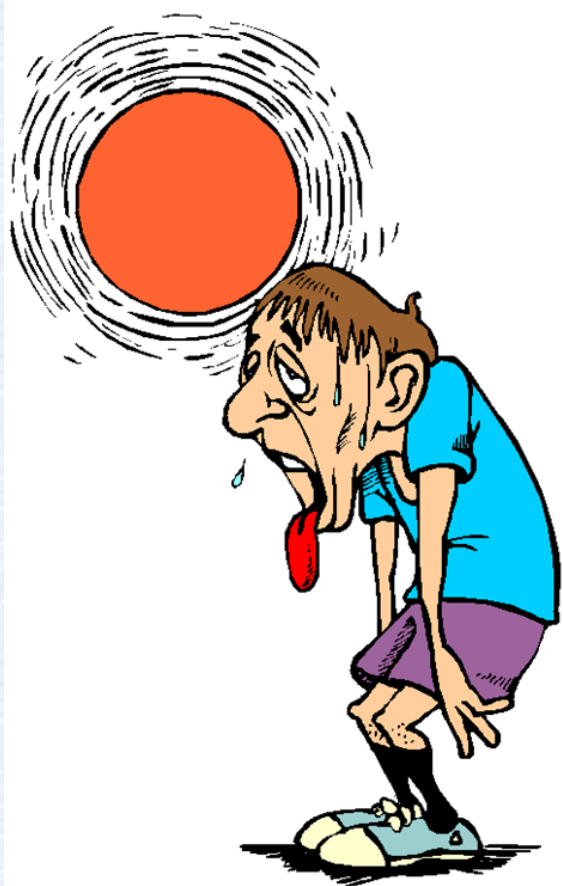
[Prescription Medications](#)

[Tennessee Department of Health Disaster Support Network](#)



Include Plenty of Water in Your Vehicle Go-Kit

Bring and Drink Plenty of Water - Stay Hydrated!



[Beware of Heat Related Illness](#)

In addition to having food for 14-days, have some extra cases of bottled water at home and work, and keep several bottles of water in your vehicle!

+ .
o

Stay Informed ... Alerts and Apps

Personal and Workplace ALERTS!



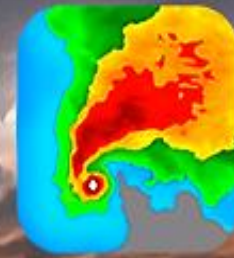
Purchase [NOAA Weather Radios](#) for your Home and Workplace in [Tennessee!](#)
And consider adding a **battery-powered, solar, or hand crank NOAA radio.**

Sign up for NWS Weather ALERTS and Training!

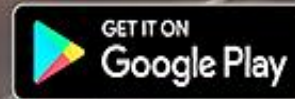
[When Thunder Roars,
Go Indoors!](#)

Download a [NOAA Weather
App](#) for your phone.

[Being Prepared](#) - Nashville,
TN - Weather Forecast Office
tips and training
opportunities.



NOAA
Weather Radar
Live & Alerts



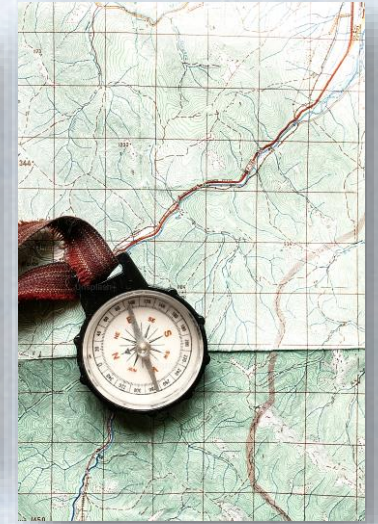
[Please check out the Free
NWS Nashville Weather
Safety Educational Videos](#)

Keep Cell Phones Charged - Have Extra Batteries!

A smartphone can be a lifeline in a natural disaster, and it can be used as a flashlight. [Always Keep your cell phone charged](#) as many disasters may take out electricity and cell services.

To make your cell battery last:

- ✓ Turn down the screen brightness
- ✓ Close unnecessary apps
- ✓ Have an extra cell phone battery and charge it monthly
- ✓ **If you travel remotely, have a paper map and compass in your vehicle to use if your GPS is not working.**



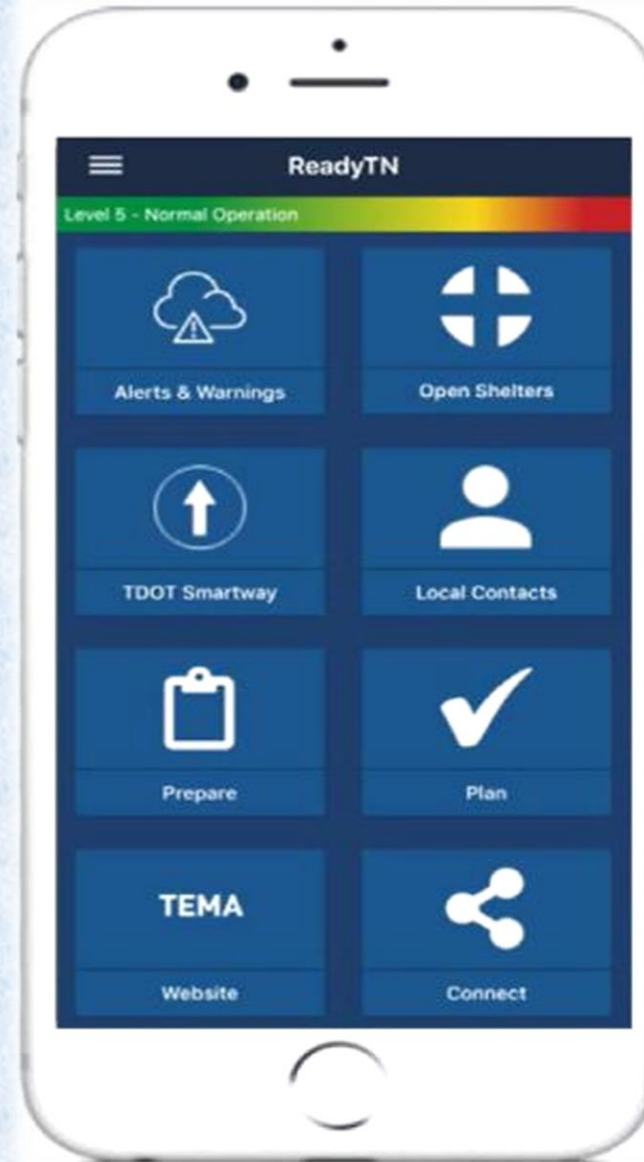
[FEMA - Power Outage Tips](#)

[2024 TDOT - Tennessee Transportation Maps \(PDF\)](#)

Get the “[ReadyTN](#)” Mobile App

The [ReadyTN app](#) is a situational awareness tool for Tennesseans with information on road conditions, weather updates, open shelters, contacts for county emergency agencies, and more.

And be sure to [Sign up for your local community emergency alerts](#).



ReadyTN features include:

Alerts and Warnings

Real time weather and emergency alert messages

Open Shelters

Displays a map of open Red Cross Shelters

TDOT Smartway

Displays a map of real time traffic conditions

Local Contacts

Emergency management contact information by county

Prepare

Information on the hazards of prime concern for Tennessee

Plan

Emergency plan checklists for a variety of scenarios

Website

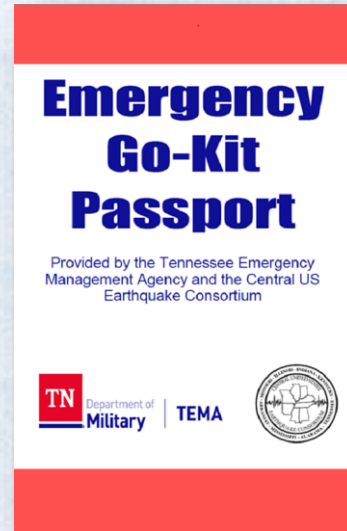
Directly connects to the TEMA website

Connect

Connects users to social media platforms

The app also features a header displaying the current status of operations. Press releases by TEMA can be found by scrolling below the 8 homepage tiles.

Visit TEMA.gov and Ready.gov Websites



To learn more about how you and your family can be ready before disasters, visit the TEMA webpage

www.tn.gov/tema/prepare

There you will find resources such as a [Family communication plan template](#) and a [Basic emergency supplies checklist](#).

<https://www.ready.gov>

[FEMA Ready Website in Spanish and Other Languages](#)

El sitio web de FEMA tiene información y materiales disponibles en otros idiomas además del inglés. [FEMA Seminarios web en español](#).



Disaster Volunteer Opportunities



How You Can Help in a Disaster

“You can make a difference...You can step up and make a difference in someone else’s life. How awesome is that?”



[“Quake Heroes” Documentary Trailer \(00:45 or 2:52 min.\)](#)

<https://quakeheroes.org/>

C.E.R.T. Overview

Community Emergency Response Team



C.E.R.T. Training Overview



What would you do if you found yourself in the middle of a disaster or emergency?

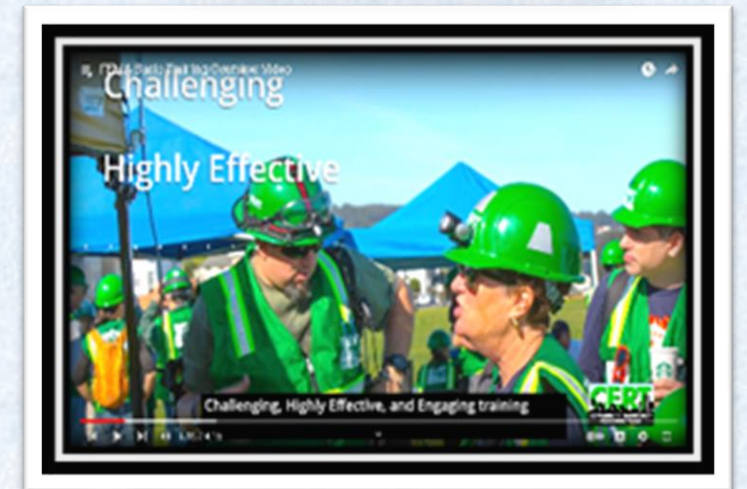
How would you respond?

Would you be prepared to act?

C.E.R.T. Overview

CERT basic training was created to help you answer those questions through challenging highly effective and engaging training in areas like fire safety light search and rescue team organization and disaster medical operations.

Through CERT training we are prepared to help our communities before during and after natural or man-made disasters. CERT teaches people that as situations arise, we will have the capabilities to react with confidence.



[Video: FEMA Basic
CERT Training
Overview 2023
\(4:15min.\)](#)

What is CERT Training?

- First responders may be overwhelmed in the event of a disaster. And no community can afford enough staff for major disasters or even large emergencies.
- CERT members can help in those first few hours or even days following a major disaster.
- The CERT course trains us in basic emergency and disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.



“[What is CERT?](#)” (10:14 min.)

This video discusses the benefits of a CERT program.

Video: “CERT in Action”

In this video, Community Emergency Response Team members explain how they come together to prepare themselves and assist their neighbors during emergencies or disasters.

And to learn more about CERT, take the two-hour FEMA-EMI Independent Study course:

[IS-317.A: Introduction to Community Emergency Response Team \(CERTs\)](#)



[*“CERT in Action” 2018 \(Video 6:28 min.\)*](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80twsCr7oyc>

Consider Sponsoring a CERT Program

- Local CERT programs are usually sponsored by state & local government agencies, schools, community organizations, non-profits, faith-based organizations, or in the workplace.
- It empowers us by learning basic emergency and disaster response skills which also boosts a community's ability to respond.
- For more information see: [Ready.gov/CERT](https://www.ready.gov/cert)
- [Find a CERT Program near you by Zip Code](#)
- [Volunteer Tennessee list of Locally Sponsored CERT Programs](#)



Starting or Revitalizing a CERT Program in Tennessee

2024 CERT Resource Guide to Starting or Revitalizing a Local Community Emergency Response Team Program in Tennessee

Established as of August 2024. Most of the information in this CERT Guide derived from more recent updates to all CERT programs in TN & NC.

Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Video About CERT
- Upcoming CERT Training Opportunities and Events
- Recently Added CERT Training Opportunities
- How to Form a FEMA and Tennessee Recognized CERT Program
- CERT Program Manager Resources
- CERT Program Funding
- Volunteer Liability Concerns
- Volunteer Insurance for TN EMRs and CERT Programs
- Developing Training to Teach CERT Courses
- FEMA EOC Training Opportunities
- Teaching CERT Basic Courses
- CERT Basic Course Materials - Overview
- CERT Basic Course Modules
- Digitalized Hybrid Visual CERT Basic Training & Personal Skills Sessions
- Hybrid CERT Basic Training - Sample Tools, Session Videos
- Additional CERT Training Videos and Materials
- CERT Exercises
- CERT - Sample PDRs, IRRs, SOPs, MOUs, and Bylaws
- Sample IIR Forms and CERT Position Checklists
- CERT Course Training/Resource Trailer & Equipment Options
- CERT Links to Equipment, Supplies, Forms, Logos, and Patches
- CERT Resource Typing
- Promoting and Recruiting for your CERT Program
- CERT News - Social Media Sites, Groups, Articles, and Posts
- CERT Webpages
- FEMA Preparedness and CERT Mutual Aid Webpage
- FEMA EOC - Online Independent Study Training Opportunities
- Updates to this CERT Resource Guide - We would like to hear from you
- About the Author
- Disclaimer

How to Start a CERT Program

What is CERT?

What is CERT?

What is CERT?

What is CERT?

2024 Resource Guide to Starting or Revitalizing a Local CERT Program in Tennessee

- If you choose to sponsor a CERT program, Volunteer Tennessee is here to help your organization with our forty-five-page [CERT Resource Guide](#).
- It provides an Overview and Practical Guidelines for Starting a CERT Program.
- And it includes extensive CERT Program Manager and CERT Instructor Resources, with over 400 Training and Exercise Links - Videos - Webinars.

Personal Disaster Volunteer Opportunities

- An influx of unaffiliated **spontaneous volunteers** or **sightseers** converging on a disaster scene clogs streets and creates problems for responders and emergency workers.
- Instead, if you wish to volunteer in future disasters, please pre-affiliate with a recognized disaster assistance organization. And only respond when government officials call for volunteers then go to a specific **Volunteer Reception Center** location.
- Please visit our [*Volunteer TN - Disaster Volunteer Opportunities webpage*](#) for *additional information*.

**PLEASE DO NOT
SELF-DEPLOY!**



**Over six-thousand Spontaneous
Volunteers arrived during the
first-day after the 2020
Cookeville Tornado**



Member of the
Tennessee Serves Network



Find your volunteer opportunities in Northeast TN and Bristol, VA



“Spirit of cooperation helps get Tech trainers home from Helene's effects.”
Photo Herald-Citizen Oct 4, 2024

[**TEMA Hurricane Helene Info**](#)

Hurricane Helene Volunteer Information:

- [General Information](#)
- [General In-Person Disaster Relief Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Specific In-Person Disaster Relief Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Virtual Disaster Relief Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Donation Information:

- [Monetary Donations](#)
- [In-Kind Donations](#)

If you or a loved one has been directly impacted by Hurricane Helene, visit the [Tennessee Emergency Management Agency's website](#) for guidance and resources.

Volunteer Opportunities - Tennessee Serves Network

- Volunteer Tennessee strongly encourages potential volunteers to seek training and pre-affiliate with a recognized disaster response organization in advance of a disaster.
- Potential volunteers can register for disaster-related opportunities through the [Tennessee Serves Network](#) and [JustServe TN Relief Efforts](#).
- And see [AmeriCorps Volunteer Opportunities](#) pages for ongoing local opportunities to serve.
- [How to Get Involved in Your Community](#)



To find a volunteer opportunity near you, visit the [Tennessee Serves Volunteer Portal](#).

Tennessee Voluntary Organizations in Disasters

- Volunteer Tennessee also works closely with [Tennessee Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster \(TN-VOAD\)](#) as a resource for training and volunteer opportunities.
- Consider contacting [recognized VOAD member organizations](#) for training opportunities PRIOR to a disaster.
- See: [When Disaster Strikes...How to Donate or Volunteer Successfully pdf.](#)





For More Info - Please Contact:



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Cell: 818-519-6881

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dsowers@tntech.edu



*Thanks for Taking the
Time to Be Prepared!*