

# WHAT TO DO AFTER A DISASTER

Floods, tornadoes, wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes - a disaster can turn your world upside down in a matter of seconds. Besides stress, adrenaline, and fear, you may be injured or experience damage or loss of property. Here are 6 main steps to take immediately following a disaster and in the days, weeks, and months that follow.

## Deal with the Immediate Aftermath

### STEP 01

- Account for all household members
- Check for injuries
- If needed, summon professional help
- Beware of safety issues: powerlines, debris
- Notify friends and family that you're safe



### STEP 02

## Find Temporary Shelter or Housing

- Evacuate if needed
- Bring valuables and important docs
- Find an emergency shelter or hotel
- Bring or board your pets
- Keep all temp housing receipts

## Emergency Food & Water

### STEP 03

- Listen to radio for disaster feeding sites
- Check local food banks and shelters
- Boil tap water before use



### STEP 04

## If You Need Disaster Assistance

- Check your local media for info
- American Red Cross & Salvation Army provide assistance, clean up, & supplies
- Contact FEMA for counseling, housing, loans, and other assistance

## Returning Home

### STEP 05

- Wait until your area is declared safe
- Return during daylight hours
- Inspect the perimeter for hazards
- Be cautious when entering
- Take photos & contact your insurance



### STEP 06

## Replacing Lost Records & Protecting Your Property

- To replace records visit [usa.gov](http://usa.gov)
- Make arrangements for mail delivery
- Contact creditors about payment options
- If it's a federal disaster, you may qualify for tax deductions, check with your planner