



Your MA Conference Disaster Resource and Response Team Reminds You:

Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How.

No one knows when the next tornado, hurricane or blizzard will strike, but we do know children can be greatly affected by natural disasters for a long time afterward. Emergency response plans often fail to address the specific needs of children before, during, and after disasters.

Children have unique needs:

- * Reliance on a caregiver for daily needs;
- * May be unable to communicate with or identify family except as “mom” and “dad” because they are unsure or unable to provide names or addresses;
- * They may have mobility challenges based on age;
- * Safety and protection needs are dependent on age and ability to understand instructions;
- * Physical health is impacted as the immune system is less resilient to illness and the respiration rate is so much higher. The child may breathe in more potential allergens and toxins;
- * Nutrition needs based on age and specific tastes;
- * Coping skills are not yet mature, but children still need opportunities to share concerns with other children and caring adults;
- * Developmental skills that impact ability to concentrate or master learning;
- * And the need for a routine, positive reinforcement, and comfort.



For more Preparedness Information, please visit:

MACUCC: [MACUCC.org/DisasterResource](https://macucc.org/DisasterResource)

Parent Checklist from *Save the Children Prep Rally* book:

<https://rcrctoolbox.org/toolbox/disaster-checklist-for-parents/>

FEMA: www.Ready.gov



Your MA Conference Disaster Resource and Response Team Offers You:

Staying Safe Activities to Share with your Children

Although the reported number of disasters has increased over the last decade, fewer than half of American families have a family emergency plan. As parents and guardians know their children’s specific needs the best (e.g., medical and physical needs), it is critical that they create family plans that meet these needs and help inform caregiver plans.

For the Children:

1. Having an identification card can help you get back with your family more quickly if there is an emergency. The card can also provide helpful medical information. These cards should include information such as your name, age, address, home address, phone number, medical needs, and an emergency contact. It should also include a current photo. You can keep the card in a wallet or a backpack that you carry with you most days. Make sure your parents/guardians update the ID card information every year or when it changes. (Samples at MACUCC.org/DisasterResource.)
2. If a disaster hits, power may go out so you cannot use computers, internet, or home phones. Cell phone lines may be busy or not working. This can make it difficult to call your family. Memorize an important phone number and learn different ways you can reach a parent or emergency contact. Some ways to communicate may be texting, emailing or calling an out-of-town contact (e.g., grandparent or other relative) whose phone lines may not be disrupted by the emergency.

For more Preparedness Information, please visit:

MACUCC: [MACUCC.org/DisasterResource](https://macucc.org/DisasterResource)

Parent Checklist from *Save the Children Prep Rally* book:

<https://rcrctoolbox.org/toolbox/disaster-checklist-for-parents/>

FEMA: www.Ready.gov



Your MA Conference Disaster Resource and Response Team Reminds You:

Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How.

No one knows when the next tornado, hurricane or blizzard will strike, but we do know children can be greatly affected by natural disasters for a long time afterward. Emergency response plans often fail to address the specific needs of children before, during, and after disasters.

Children have unique needs:

- * Reliance on a caregiver for daily needs;
- * May be unable to communicate with or identify family except as “mom” and “dad” because they are unsure or unable to provide names or addresses;
- * They may have mobility challenges based on age;
- * Safety and protection needs are dependent on age and ability to understand instructions;
- * Physical health is impacted as the immune system is less resilient to illness and the respiration rate is so much higher. The child may breathe in more potential allergens and toxins;
- * Nutrition needs based on age and specific tastes;
- * Coping skills are not yet mature, but children still need opportunities to share concerns with other children and caring adults;
- * Developmental skills that impact ability to concentrate or master learning;
- * And the need for a routine, positive reinforcement, and comfort.



For more Preparedness Information, please visit:

MACUCC: [MACUCC.org/DisasterResource](https://macucc.org/DisasterResource)

Parent Checklist from *Save the Children Prep Rally* book:

<https://rcrctoolbox.org/toolbox/disaster-checklist-for-parents/>

FEMA: www.Ready.gov



Your MA Conference Disaster Resource and Response Team Offers You:

Staying Safe Activities to Share with your Children

Although the reported number of disasters has increased over the last decade, fewer than half of American families have a family emergency plan. As parents and guardians know their children’s specific needs the best (e.g., medical and physical needs), it is critical that they create family plans that meet these needs and help inform caregiver plans.

For the Children:

1. Having an identification card can help you get back with your family more quickly if there is an emergency. The card can also provide helpful medical information. These cards should include information such as your name, age, address, home address, phone number, medical needs, and an emergency contact. It should also include a current photo. You can keep the card in a wallet or a backpack that you carry with you most days. Make sure your parents/guardians update the ID card information every year or when it changes. (Samples at MACUCC.org/DisasterResource.)
2. If a disaster hits, power may go out so you cannot use computers, internet, or home phones. Cell phone lines may be busy or not working. This can make it difficult to call your family. Memorize an important phone number and learn different ways you can reach a parent or emergency contact. Some ways to communicate may be texting, emailing or calling an out-of-town contact (e.g., grandparent or other relative) whose phone lines may not be disrupted by the emergency.

For more Preparedness Information, please visit:

MACUCC: [MACUCC.org/DisasterResource](https://macucc.org/DisasterResource)

Parent Checklist from *Save the Children Prep Rally* book:

<https://rcrctoolbox.org/toolbox/disaster-checklist-for-parents/>

FEMA: www.Ready.gov