

# Emergency *Preparedness*



## LET'S WORK TOGETHER

The Town of Ross is committed to keeping our community safe, especially during an emergency. In addition to our police, Ross Valley Fire Department and other first responders, we have trained town staff as disaster service workers. We regularly coordinate with our emergency responders to ensure we are ready.

For our community to be fully prepared, we need residents and business owners to support our efforts by being ready, too. It's easy if you follow these steps:

- 1 **Make a plan**
- 2 **Prepare an emergency kit**
- 3 **Know what to do and where to go**
- 4 **Know where to get more information**



## What's Inside

To get started, please review this basic emergency preparedness information:

- Make an emergency plan
- Prepare an emergency kit
- Stay or go? Evacuation tips
- Natural gas and power line safety
- Staying informed and important phone numbers
- Emergency preparedness resources

# Get Ready!



The best time to get prepared is before a disaster threatens your home or safety. Use these steps as a guide for getting ready.



## Make a plan

- Designate a relative or friend as an out-of-area contact with whom family members can relay information.
- If you have children, involve them in the planning—let them be part of the process.
- Review and update your emergency supply kit and “important stuff” list periodically.
- Learn alternate ways out of your neighborhood, in case the usual way becomes blocked.
- Plan how you’ll transport your pet - get a pet carrier if necessary.



## Prepare an emergency supply kit

During an emergency, you might not have time to shop or search for supplies, so have an emergency supply kit assembled. Your kit should include items you may need at home or if you have to evacuate. Store your kit in easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks or plastic crates.

- A three-day water supply (1 gallon per person per day is recommended)
- A three-day food supply that won’t spoil, and a way to open it
- One change of clothing and shoes per person
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person
- A first aid kit that includes family prescriptions
- Emergency tools
- Extra set of car keys
- Toiletries and moist towelettes
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members
- Pet transport carrier and leash
- Pet food for three days
- Goggles (for high wind or blowing embers)
- Work gloves
- Face mask (rated “Mk 95”)



## Important stuff

Everyone has their own “important stuff” - things you don’t want to forget in an emergency. Make a list now of the things important to you, and be ready to gather them in a moment’s notice.

- Prescription medication
- Eyeglasses
- Important documents (birth certificates, passports, insurance papers and inventory, personal phone and address books, tax, school and vaccination records, photos, etc.)
- Jewelry
- Child’s favorite toy, book or game
- External drive or computer backup
- Cash (in case ATMs are out of service)
- Cell phone and charger
- Laptop and charger



**For a complete list** of emergency preparedness kit items and other emergency planning information, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

## Water Tips

Store a minimum of three gallons of emergency water per person, and plan on using one gallon per person each day. If purified water is not available during an emergency, water should be boiled for one full minute. Let the water completely cool before use. Periodically rotate water and food supplies per manufacturer's instructions.



## Stay or Go?

Depending on the emergency and your situation, you could be asked to evacuate to a safe location or "shelter in place," meaning stay where you are.

### Evacuation tips

Monitor local media and the town and county websites for evacuation instructions. Sign up for the Emergency Alert system to receive information directly to your cell phone and email.

- Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and the routes to use. Follow their directions promptly.
- You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.
- You may be directed to temporary meeting areas to await transfer to a safe location.

### Sheltering in place

If officials have determined it's best to stay where you are and "shelter in place," follow these tips:

- Bring your family and pets inside.
- Lock doors, close windows, air vents and fireplace dampers.
- Go into an interior room with few windows, if possible.
- If biological, chemical or radiological contamination: turn off fans, air conditioning and forced air heating systems. Seal all windows, doors and air vents with plastic sheeting and duct tape. Consider measuring and cutting the sheeting in advance to save time.
- Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to seal gaps so that you create a barrier between yourself and any contamination.
- Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should watch TV, listen to the radio or check the internet often for official news and instructions as they become available.

The **Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT**, is Ross' neighbor-helping-neighbor program that mobilizes during an emergency. CERT volunteers work closely with the Ross Valley Fire Department and are trained to provide basic first aid, light search and rescue, and small-fire suppression during an emergency. Visit [www.rossvalleyfire.org](http://www.rossvalleyfire.org) to get involved.



## Natural Gas and Power Line Safety

Ross residents can experience power outages due to an earthquake, severe weather, fires, traffic accidents, rolling blackouts or a planned system upgrade.



For power outage or general information visit [www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com). If you have a safety concern with electricity or gas, call 1-800-743-5000 or 9-1-1 in an emergency.

## Natural gas leak

If you smell a natural gas odor, hear the hissing sound of gas escaping or see other signs of a leak:

- REMAIN calm.
- DON'T light a match, candle or cigarette or use spark-producing devices.
- DON'T turn electrical appliances or lights on or off.
- From a safe location, call 9-1-1 and PG&E at 1-800-743-5000, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## Downed or broken power lines

- Stay clear of the line and do not touch it.
- Call 9-1-1.
- Always assume that power lines are energized. If a person has come into contact with a power line, don't touch the person or any equipment involved. The line may still be energized and could be extremely dangerous.

## Stay Informed During an Emergency

Check the Town of Ross website for the most current information and any evacuation or shelter information during an emergency. Join the Town's email list by contacting [llopez@townofross.org](mailto:llopez@townofross.org), to receive important Town emergency notices. Other emergency information resources include:

- Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES) [www.marinsheriff.org](http://www.marinsheriff.org), 415-473-6584.
- Local emergency radio stations: KGO 810, KCBS 740 and KLIV 1590.
- [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov) for road conditions and closures.

Avoid non-essential cell phone use during an emergency. Text messaging has proven to be more resilient during an emergency than voice communication.

## Important phone numbers

Emergency	9-1-1
Pacific Gas & Electric	800-743-5000
Police (non-emergency)	415-453-2727
Ross Valley Fire Department	415-258-4686

## Emergency preparedness resources

Additional emergency planning information and detailed checklists are available on the following websites:

[Get Ready Marin](#)

[Marin County CERT](#)

[Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services](#)

[Pacific Gas & Electric](#)

[Ready.gov](#)

[Ready Marin Plan and Prepare](#)

[Red Cross](#)

[Town of Ross Community Preparedness](#)

## Register for Emergency Alerts

Register your phones and email addresses through the Marin County Sheriff's Office "Alert Marin" System, the county's emergency notification system. [Visit Alert Marin](#) to register for this free service.

