

BOSTON IS PREPARING. ARE YOU?

Be Safe

Use this handout to develop the skills and knowledge to keep each other safe before and after emergencies to prevent injury and illness.

UNDERSTAND YOUR SURROUNDINGS

It is important to know what is going on in your home, your vehicle, and your environment to recognize potential hazards when an emergency occurs. Visit [readysafehealthy.org](https://www.readysafehealthy.org) for more information.

Avoid Unintentional Illness and Injury:

- Avoid walking or driving through flooded areas.
- Remove standing water around your home to prevent the spread of disease by insects, such as mosquitoes.
- Follow directions given by officials and stay away from areas deemed unsafe.

If you see something, say something.

Call 1-800-494-8477 or text the word "TIP" to CRIME (27463) to report anonymously to the Boston Police Department.

Stay Safe Around Utilities

- Knowing how to shut off water, gas and electricity is key after a disaster: <https://www.ready.gov/safety-skills>
 - Natural gas leaks can cause fires following disasters.
 - If you don't know where the shutoff valves are, contact your utility company.
- Ensure carbon monoxide and fire detectors work correctly in your home.

KEEP FOOD AND WATER SAFE

When the power goes out, your refrigerator and freezer will likely stop working, leaving your food unsafe to eat. Water may also be unsafe to drink.

- For food and water safety tips from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), visit [readysafehealthy.org](https://www.readysafehealthy.org)

FOOD AND WATER SAFETY

When in Doubt, Throw it Out!

- Throw away food that may have come into contact with flood or storm water.
- Throw away perishable food or food with an unusual odor, color, or texture.
- While the power is out, keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- Do **not** use water that you suspect is contaminated to wash dishes, brush your teeth, wash and prepare food, wash your hands, or make baby formula.

How to Make Water Safe to Drink and Use

1. Filter through a clean cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter.
2. Draw off the clear water.
3. Bring to a rolling boil for one minute.
4. Let water cool.

How to Disinfect Water

1. Add 1/8 teaspoon of regular, unscented bleach to 1 gallon of water.
2. Stir and let water stand for 30 minutes.
3. Store in clean, disinfected container with airtight cover.

SAFETY NOTE:

Water contaminated with fuel or toxic chemicals will **not** be made safe by boiling or disinfection. Use a different source of water if you suspect water might be contaminated with fuel or toxic chemicals.

Cut and Keep in Go Kit



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT



OFFICE OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPAREDNESS



BOSTON IS PREPARING. ARE YOU?

During emergencies, official resources are limited and may take time to meet all needs in the community. Those who learn how to be safe before an emergency happens are more likely to prevent injury and illness.

For more information on how to prepare visit: [readysafehealthy.org](https://www.readysafehealthy.org)

SAFETY GUIDE

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

List prescription medications needed by you or those in your plan:

PRESCRIPTION 1

PRESCRIPTION 2

PRESCRIPTION 3

PRESCRIPTION 4

Ensure medications requiring refrigeration are kept cold.
Always safely and properly dispose of medications, including needles.

HOME MEDICAL DEVICES

List medical devices needed by you or those in your plan:

DEVICE 1

DEVICE 2

DEVICE 3

Make sure to properly maintain electronic medical devices and have extra battery power for any device that you or your loved ones use.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For information during an emergency, call the City of Boston
24-Hour Constituent Service Center at **311**.

BOS:
311

LEARN BASIC HEALTH SKILLS

It is important to learn basic health skills in the event that you, or those around you, are in need of immediate help. The following skills will help prepare you to assist others in the event of a medical emergency until emergency medical services arrive:

Hands Only CPR: With hands-only CPR, there are no rescue breaths. You just call 9-1-1 and then push hard and fast on the center of the adult's chest.

General First Aid: Knowing how to provide immediate care during an emergency can help you save a life.

Until Help Arrives: Life-threatening emergencies can happen fast and emergency responders aren't always nearby. You may be able to save a life by taking simple actions immediately.

www.ready.gov/until-help-arrives



CAR SAFETY

- Plan long trips carefully.
- Get the latest weather forecast and road conditions and drive only if necessary.
- Prepare your vehicles: <https://www.ready.gov/car>
- After a snowstorm, shovel out the car tailpipe before turning on the car to prevent carbon monoxide buildup.



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