How to Plan in Case of a Disaster

Safety tips for families

1. School Evacuation
   Some schools and day cares have emergency plans for a variety of scenarios, but recent studies indicate many do not. If your child’s school or day care does not have a reunification plan, encourage them to reach out to their school district or local emergency management agency to discuss developing one.

2. Emergency Calling
   Develop and regularly practice emergency plans at home with children and pets in case your family is separated. Designate an out-of-state relative or close friend to become “communications central” for the family. Because local phone lines may be down or inundated in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, someone out-of-state will be best positioned to receive calls.

3. Location for Meeting Up
   Designate a location where your family could gather in the event of separation. This could be a playground, park or a local landmark that’s easy for children to get to if they need to on their own.

4. Important Documents
   Make copies of any legal paperwork if you are your child’s court designated primary caregiver in a custodial separation or divorce. Share them with any relatives or close friends in other states, or carry the paperwork with you in an emergency kit.

5. School Evacuation
   This should include a recent color photo of the child’s face, descriptive information, fingerprints, medical and dental records or bite impressions, and a DNA sample. This sample could be taken from any number of your child’s grooming items such as a hairbrush or toothbrush.

To learn more about preparing for a disaster go to our website.
http://www.missingkids.org/Disasters