

Help Keep Kids Safe in Emergencies.



Save the Children®



youth

service program



PREP RALLY



If disaster struck today, would you know how to find your family?

What if phone lines were down?

Would you have the right supplies ready in case you had to evacuate quickly or stay home for a long time without power?

THE CHALLENGE

Every day, 69 million children are in school or child care and separated from their families if disaster were to strike. Thinking about the possibility of a disaster occurring can be difficult—it's scary, especially for young kids who rely on their caregivers for protection. But what is scarier is that this means many families don't think about it. Disasters can strike anywhere at any time yet more than half of American families don't have an emergency plan. But these aren't the only gaps in protecting kids. Think about this:

- 21 states and DC fail to meet basic emergency standards for protecting kids in schools and child care—that leaves millions of kids vulnerable every day!
- After Hurricane Katrina, it took 7 months to reunite the last child with her family. Can you imagine not knowing where your family was for more than half a year?
- Disasters affect children long after the storm has passed. Children who experience a large-scale disaster are five times more likely to have serious emotional issues than those who do not have such experiences.

MOST AMERICANS ARE NOT READY TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN DISASTERS!

And this puts millions of children at risk not only during a storm, but long afterwards while they continue to cope with the crisis.

THE SOLUTION

You can make sure that your family and community are equipped with the skills and knowledge to protect its littlest and most vulnerable citizens, its children. Together, we can help turn the tide and build a generation of prepared citizens so that no matter what storm comes our way, we can be ready and stay safe.

HOW?

Lead **Get Ready Get Safe Prep Rally** activities and events to help build community awareness and educate children and families about simple things they can do to stay safe in emergencies.



Prep Rally (spirit fingers)!!

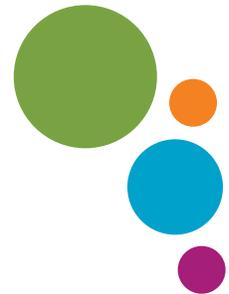
Prep Rally [prep ral-ee] noun —

- 1) An engaging event or gathering that educates children and families about emergency preparedness and provides them with the resources they need to get ready and be safety advocates.

A Prep Rally can be done in many different ways—a booth, a drive, a program, or a community event—but it focuses on the basics of emergency preparedness as outlined in four Prep Steps: 1) Recognizing Risks; 2) Planning Ahead; 3) Gathering Wise Supplies; 4) During Disaster. A Prep Rally could cover all the Prep Steps (for example, you could volunteer with a classroom or girl scout troop and do one step at each meeting or over a week). Or Prep Rally may focus on one Prep Step you think is particularly important to your community (for example, you may want to host a disaster supplies booth in which you give out disasters supplies kit checklists). The details are up to you! Be creative.

I still don't get it.

Don't worry. We've made it easy for you. Save the Children has created a [Prep Rally Kit](#) including a leader guide (Prep Rally Playbook) and activity guides (Child Guide and Family Guide) full of exciting activities, games and discussion guides that make preparedness fun. We also have training available online and in person to help give you the jumpstart you need. Use these materials to educate younger kids and families in your community.



Prep Rally Service Opportunities

Interested? A Prep Rally doesn't have to be a large community event, but can be simple awareness-raising activities that fit into the events and programs that are already happening in your community—like an afterschool program, back-to-school night or safety fair.

LITTLE THINGS THAT CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT

- **Disaster Checklist Giveaway.** Give families the tools they need to help make an emergency plan that meets the needs of children. Download the *Family Disaster Checklist* and set up a booth and hand out at a community event, back-to-school event or fair. Be creative with your booth. Share facts about why it's so important that we take action to protect children.

HOURS: Typically 1–3 hours per event.

- **Disaster Supplies Booth/Giveaway.** Help families build their disaster supplies kit by giving out the *Disaster Supplies Checklist* at community events. Consider getting a donor to provide reusable bag giveaways, bottled water or other goods that could be used to start their kit.

HOURS: Typically 1–3 hours per event. Be sure to include the hours you spend coordinating with potential donors.

- **Preparedness Pledge Drive.** Have children and families sign the *Preparedness Pledge (online version)*. Make it more fun by setting a goal, entering signers into a raffle, or competing with another school or club.

HOURS: Typically 1–3 hours per event.

- **Be an Advocate.** Research local and state emergency laws and policies and see how they protect children and account for children's needs. Write a letter to your local officials or governor asking them to do more for children in emergencies or thanking them for making children's needs in emergencies a priority. You can use Save the Children's *Disaster Report Card* as a state resource [www.savethechildren.org/US-disaster].

HOURS: 1–3 hours. Count your research and writing time.

- **Raise Your Voice.** After using the Prep Rally Kit and training to get more familiar with children's needs in emergencies, write a letter to the editor of a local or state newspaper on the importance of protecting children in emergencies. Share what you're doing to prepare your community and ask others in your community to take action as well. You can usually find editors' contact information online and submit letters through email.

HOURS: 1–2 hours. Count your writing time whether the letter is published or not.

- **Volunteer in a Classroom or Afterschool Program.** Ask your favorite grammar school teacher if you can go into his classroom and lead a Prep Rally activity, like reading a few of our Story Sharing emergency-themed books (Booklist in Prep Rally Child Guide) with students or setting up a disaster supply relay race to teach kids about what should go in their disaster supplies kit.

HOURS: Typically 1–3 hours per event. Count your preparation time.

- **Create a New Prep Rally Game or Activity.** Use the Prep Rally Kit to help you think of new, creative games or activities that could be part of your Prep Rally program. Try to think of activities that require few or easy-to-get supplies and that keep kids active and engaged while learning key concepts and key terms. Write up your activity including a description, supplies needed and instructions. Try out your activity with a few groups of children in your community and make any changes to your description. Share your activity with Save the Children by emailing your written document to GetReady@savechildren.org.

HOURS: 1–3 hours. Count your writing time and activity testing times.

BIGGER THINGS THAT REQUIRE SOME PREP

- **Hold Prep Rally Fundraiser.** Raise money to help children affected by U.S. disasters by holding a bake sale, hosting a talent show or hosting a race. Funds raised will help ensure that when disaster strikes, children and families will have the supplies they need to survive and programs to help communities bounce back quickly and build back stronger. Please contact GetReady@savechildren.org for assistance in setting up your fundraiser.

HOURS: 2–5 hours. Count your planning and event time.

Get Ready ... to Lead a Prep Rally

Choose the activities that best fit your community and your goals. It's okay to start small and then try something bigger as you gain support from friends, teachers and family who can help. Before you start, take a look at this checklist to help ensure that you are ready to help your community Get Ready Get Safe!

- Step 1: Get Informed.** Read through Save the Children's Prep Rally Playbook (particularly the Pre-Game section) and the Get Ready Get Safe website (www.savethechildren.org/PrepRally) so that you understand the unique needs of young children during disasters and the basics of emergency preparedness. Understand the specific risks your neighborhood is vulnerable to and the steps everyone can take to help prepare their families and community.
- Step 2. Build a Team.** Help other people in your group learn about the topic and form a team of people interested in doing something to help your community be ready for disasters.
- Step 3: Gain Skills.** Work with your group leader to discuss and fully understand all of the Prep Steps. Or ask about training opportunities (online or in person) that might be available through Save the Children by emailing GetReady@savechildren.org.
- Step 4. Make a Plan.** Brainstorm about what kind of event or activity you'd like to do to raise awareness in your community. Identify your target audience as well as a time and place for your event. Make a list of all the things you need to do to help stay on track. Download the Prep Rally Youth Service Toolkit for tips and templates to help you plan.
- Step 5: Promote Your Events.** If hosting community event, be sure to use the promotional materials and templates available in the Prep Rally Kit to help spread the word about your Prep Rally.
- Step 6. Carry Out Your Activity or Event.** Have fun!
- Step 7: Share your Prep Rally Activities!** We want to hear all about it. Use #GetReady and #PrepRally on social media or email GetReady@savechildren.org with your stories, photos and highlights for a chance to be featured on the Get Ready Get Safe website or in the Get Ready Get Safe newsletter.

- **Make a Prep Rally PSA.** Put that creativity to good use. Make a preparedness themed Public Service Announcement video. It can be about the importance of protecting children in emergencies or focus on a specific action such as what to put in a disasters supplies kit or how to choose good emergency contacts. Share this video with your networks via social media or school and community events. Consider getting a spokesperson (from your district or first responder community) to help you. Typically, PSA's are only 30–90 seconds. Share your creation with Save the Children (GetReady@savechildren.org).

HOURS: 3–7 hours. Count your planning, filming and editing time.

- **Organize a Small Prep Rally Event.** Find a school, church or community center that's interested promoting emergency preparedness through a Prep Rally. Invite all the families that use that space. Print promotional *flyers*. Choose the activities and tools you want to use from the *Prep Rally Kit*. Don't forget to register your Prep Rally with Save the Children.

HOURS: 5–10 hours. Count your training, preparation and event time.

THE BIG KAHUNA OF PREP RALLIES

- **Help Organize a Large Community Prep Rally Event.** Get in touch with local officials and emergency responders (firefighters, police, emergency medical services) to see if they will help organize and participate in a Prep Rally for your hometown. Have each participant host a booth or present on different safety topics—like fire safety, stranger safety, and emergency preparedness. Ask local vendors if they are willing to donate prizes for raffles. Ask local restaurants if they're willing to donate food as part of a fundraiser. Set up and man different booths for each of the Prep Steps. Don't forget to **register** your Prep Rally with Save the Children (visit www.savethechildren.org/PrepRally).

HOURS: 7–15 hours, count your training, preparation, promotion and event time as well any community follow up.

Have another idea? That's great! It's okay to modify one of the ideas above or try something else. The most important thing is that we help families get ready so that when disaster strikes, children will be safe.



PREP RALLY KIT

We've created some great materials to help you complete your Prep Rally activities. The full **Prep Rally Kit** is free and can be downloaded at www.savethechildren.org/PrepRally.

What you get:

- **Prep Rally Playbook.** Step-by-step leader guide, including discussion questions, key points and background information to equip any leader.
- **Child Guide.** The activities, games and worksheets for children that make your program come to life, including Flash Cards, Mad Lib Game and Story Booklist.
- **Family Guide.** Full of resources, tip sheets and tools for parents and families including the Family Disaster Checklist and Child ID Cards.
- **Intro Videos.** Use these short introductory **videos** to introduce Prep Rally concepts to children in fun ways. These videos can also be found on Save the Children's YouTube Channel.
- **Promotional Materials.** We have poster and flyer templates available as well as Prep Rally logos that you can add to any promotional materials you create.
- **Prep Rally Content PowerPoint.** Thinking of using slides to help along your Prep Rally? Take a look at our example Prep Rally presentation that you can pull from in your own program.

WHY PREP RALLY?

Besides providing children and families with valuable information and skills, hosting a Prep Rally in your community can help YOU:

- Bring your community together to rally around a good cause.
- Be a visible champion and advocate for children.
- Connect with school and community leadership.
- Gain community service hours.
- Build valuable leadership, organizational and teaching skills for your resume or college application.
- Most importantly, by helping your community protect children in emergencies, you can **save children's lives**.

We're on your side.

By partnering with Save the Children, you're teaming up with the national leader in protecting children in emergencies and we want to help you bring your Prep Rally to life!

WHO IS SAVE THE CHILDREN?

Save the Children invests in childhood—every day, in times of crisis and for our future. In the United States and around the world, we give children a healthy start, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. By transforming children's lives now, we change the course of their future and ours.

For nearly 100 years, Save the Children has been on the front lines of emergency and humanitarian responses around the world. Since Hurricane Katrina, we have served more than 1 million children affected by U.S. disasters alone, providing safe areas to play, distributing essential items; and providing the support communities need to build back stronger and more resilient.

WHAT IS GET READY GET SAFE?

Save the Children's Get Ready Get Safe initiative designed to help U.S. communities prepare to protect and care for the most vulnerable among us in times of crisis—our children. We help generate child-focused emergency plans, provide emergency training and ensure emergency resources are in place before crisis strikes. We keep kids safe, securing the future we share. Creating a safe haven for children to work through their emotions. Providing the coping skills to help reduce the effects of disasters on young minds. Because we want our kids to just be kids, no matter what happens.

Learn more and get the
Youth Service Toolkit at
savethechildren.org/GetReady

