



STAY CONNECTED

Stay Connected **#ReadyTogether** Toolkit



The ABC and Australian Red Cross created this guide to help you and your community get ready for emergencies

Red Cross knows that when emergency events strike, being prepared, knowing your neighbours and staying connected with your community can make a difference.

The ABC is your official emergency broadcaster and will provide essential up-to-date information, including key alerts, warnings and coverage to help keep communities safe. To find your local ABC radio frequency go to reception.abc.net.au

From the disasters we've responded to, we know the more connected a community is, the more resilient we are.

So let's get **#ReadyTogether!**

What you can do today, and everyday, to get ready

A resilient community has a shared knowledge and understanding of emergencies and what can be done to reduce their impact. Building your own resilient community can happen everyday, in simple ways.

Talk to others about emergencies

- Explain the risks and impacts and what you've done to prepare yourself.
- Chat to people in the playground, around the sporting field or in your hobby group.
- Introduce yourself to your neighbours.

Help others get in the know

- Help others to get in the know about the emergencies that might affect them and how to find the resources they need to help them prepare.
- Offer to help people who might need special assistance.

Share your story

- The experience of an emergency or a loved one experiencing an emergency are two of the most common reasons people give for their own emergency preparedness.
- If you or a loved one has experienced an emergency, share your story with others.

Helpful resources

#ReadyTogether is as simple as introducing yourself to a neighbour or as grand as a neighbourhood pre-emergency clean up. It's up to you! This Toolkit has ideas, tools and resources so you and your community can stay connected.

Resources to help:

- Hey Neighbour – a card to help get to know the people in your local area
- Conversation card – to help break the ice
- Invitation template – inspiration to kick off your event
- Social posts – images and copy to help get the message out

The **ABC Emergency website** has resources available about how to plan for emergencies. Resources include guides on how to prepare for specific emergencies like bushfires, floods and heatwaves, what to pack in your survival kit and how to access important updates through ABC Radio.

Australian Red Cross has created tools such as the Get Prepared app and RediPlan to help you create, store and share your emergency plan.

These may be useful to help plan your #ReadyTogether event to share with your neighbours and community.

Get involved

Connected communities are safer communities

- Meet neighbours and discuss your household emergency plan with them.
- Think about and connect with people in your neighbourhood who might need help during an emergency.
- Join an existing community through local council groups, events or local initiatives.
- Create a community group to help build disaster resilience in your local community.
- Ask your support network to help you plan for an emergency and make sure everyone in your network knows your plan.
- Arrange to have emergency services experts talk to a group you belong to about how your community can prepare for emergencies.
- Get involved in community groups or events. For instance, local sports teams, gardening groups and fundraising events.
- Hold a fundraising event for the Red Cross Disaster Response and Recovery fund or your local emergency service.
- Visit ABC Emergency for useful resources including what to pack in your survival kits.
- Host a Disaster-ous Dinner Party to eat, drink and get prepared. Download our host guide [here](#).

Arrange a virtual #ReadyTogether

Connect while staying physically distant

- Join or start up an online community through a social media channel.
- Send cards to get to know your neighbours.
- Create a survival kit checklist online with friends or loved ones.
- Download the Get Prepared app to create and keep your emergency plan. Then suggest one friend to do the same.
- Arrange activities online where you connect while doing something else – singing, dancing, storytelling.
- Lock in a regular date and arrange social occasions as ways of staying connected.
- Set some simple goals together – like downloading Australian Red Cross Get Prepared app and ABC listen app to stay connected to ABC Radio on the go.
- Put your local ABC Radio frequency and abc.net.au/emergency website on the fridge to have close by during an emergency.



#ReadyTogether for children and young people

All family members should be involved

- Arrange a time to come together at a school to start conversations around emergencies.
- Book a Red Cross Pillowcase Program session for your primary school.
- Join your school's green team or environment group.
- Take up debating and learn how to argue for action.
- Host a #ReadyTogether event at your school.

#ReadyTogether Hey neighbour cards

We know in a disaster the most valuable tool is your connection to community. You can help support your neighbours and build this important connection with the help of these cards.

If you'd like to connect with your neighbours or someone you know, print out these cards and drop them in their letterbox.



HELLO! MY NAME IS:

I live:

- Next door
- Over the road at _____
- Up the street at _____

Did you know it's most likely to be your neighbour or a passer-by, not emergency services, who will help you survive during an emergency? Neighbours can also provide practical and emotional support after an emergency, as well as important information about recovery services.

My/our details are:

Name _____
Phone _____
Email _____

We are also good for:

- Putting out the bins
- Collecting mail
- Watering the garden
- Feeding pets
- Cup of sugar

HELLO! MY NAME IS:

I live:

- Next door
- Over the road at _____
- Up the street at _____

Did you know it's most likely to be your neighbour or a passer-by, not emergency services, who will help you survive during an emergency? Neighbours can also provide practical and emotional support after an emergency, as well as important information about recovery services.

My/our details are:

Name _____
Phone _____
Email _____

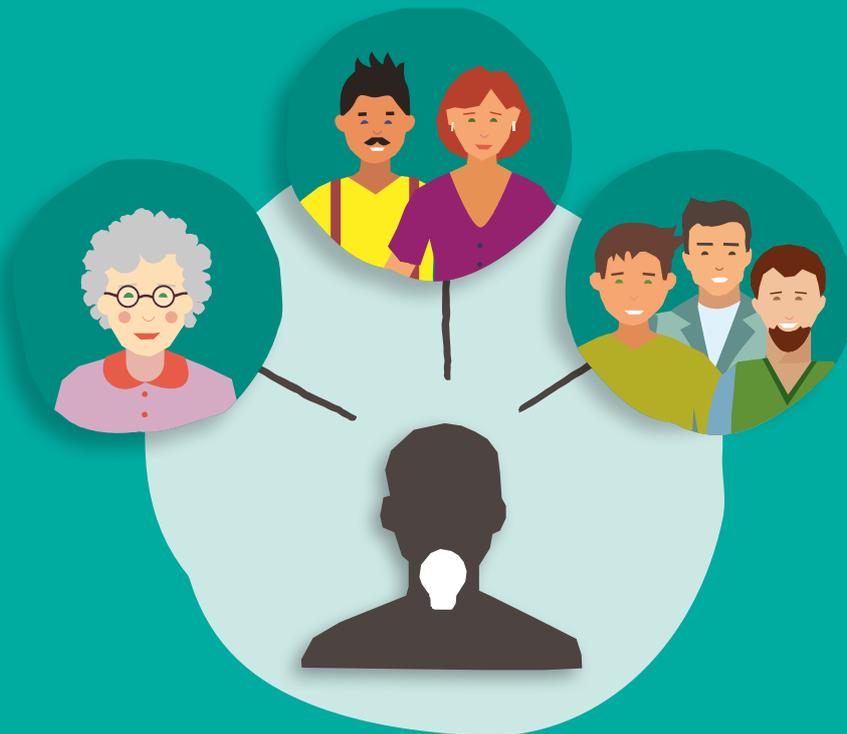
We are also good for:

- Putting out the bins
- Collecting mail
- Watering the garden
- Feeding pets
- Cup of sugar

#ReadyTogether Conversation starter cards

EMERGENCIES HAPPEN: PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

CREATE A SUPPORT NETWORK



HOW TO START THE CONVERSATION

CREATE A SUPPORT NETWORK

Tell—your story

Talk about an emergency you've been through. How ready were you? What would you do differently?

Ask a question

- Who would you call for help in an emergency?
- Does that person know you would call them?

Discuss why it's important

The people most likely to help you in an emergency are your friends, family and neighbours.

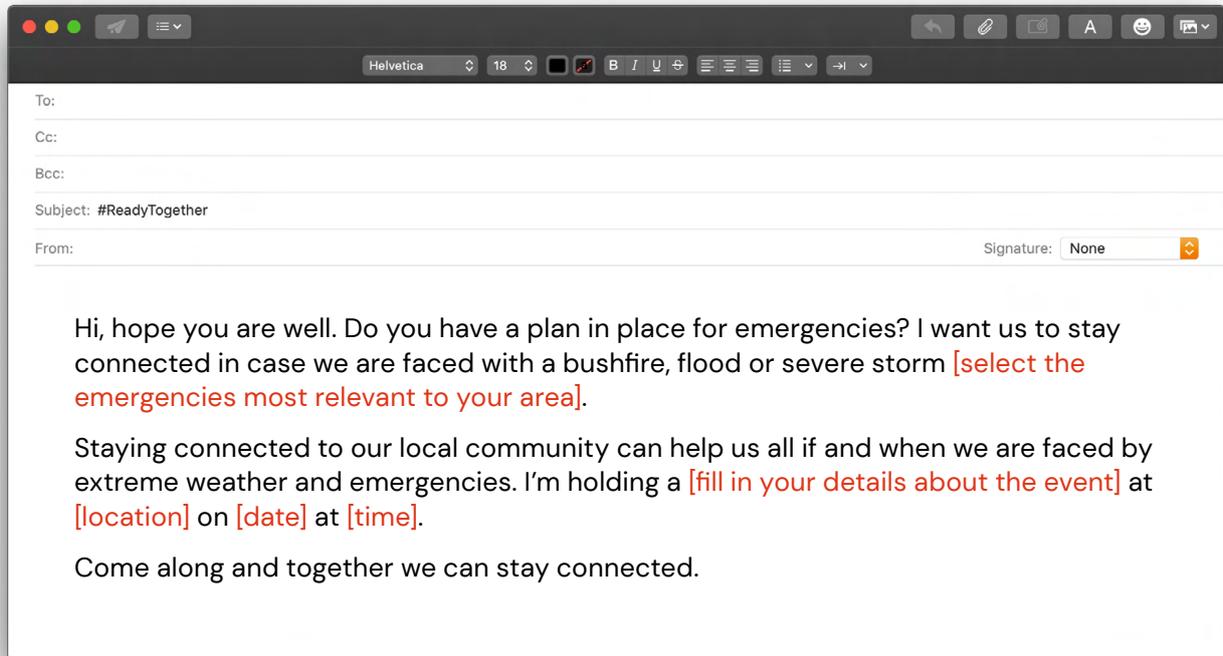
Recommend taking action

That's why it is a good idea to have at least three key people you know and trust, that you could call for help in an emergency. You need someone to talk to, someone nearby and someone who can lend a hand. It's best to let them know you might call on them too. It's a simple thing you can do to get prepared.



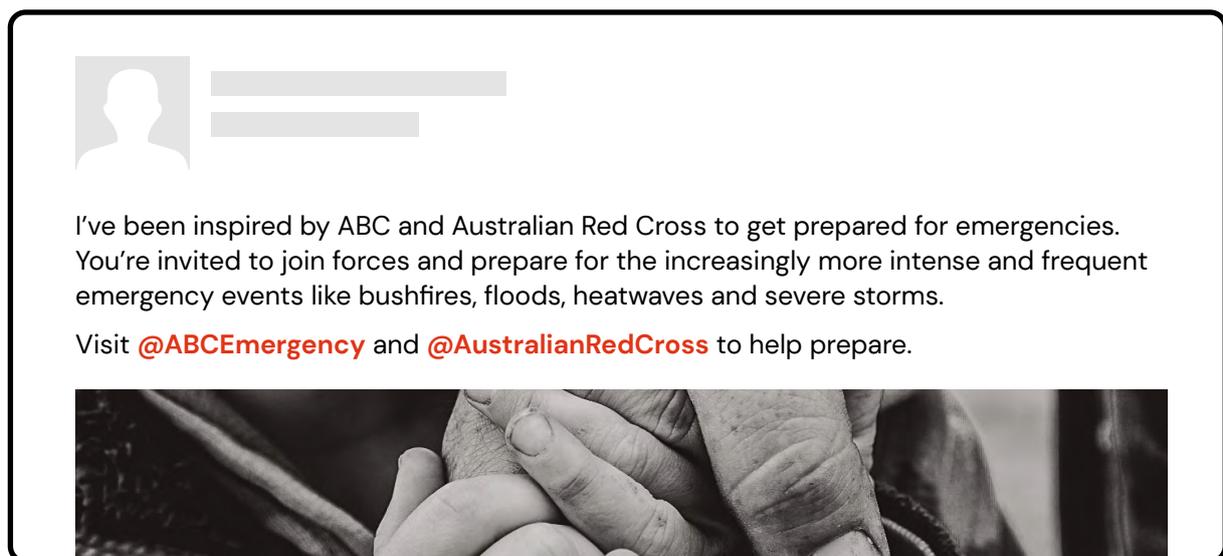
Get the word out

If you are holding an event get in early and send out invitations. Text message, email or pop a note under the door. Here's a suggestion for text.



Social posts

Share what you're doing across your social channels. Here's some copy as inspiration. Remember to use **#ABCStayConnected** + tag **@AustralianRedCross** (Facebook), **@RedCrossAU** (Instagram and Twitter) and **@ABCEmergency**



Preparing for emergencies

Every year, Red Cross supports tens of thousands of Australians across the country during natural disasters. So we've seen – thousands of times over – how being prepared has made a difference to people's experience of a disaster. There are four simple steps you can take to protect yourself, the people you love and the things you value most.



Get in the know



Get connected



Get organised



Get packing

Tools for preparing for emergencies

Our four most important links to get you ready.

redcross.org.au/prepare

To download our free Get Prepared app, emergency plan or survival checklist.

abc.net.au/emergency

For essential up-to-date information during an emergency stay tuned to the ABC.

reception.abc.net.au

To know your local ABC Radio frequency. Be prepared with a battery-powered radio in your emergency kit.

abc.net.au/listen

To stay connected to your local ABC station on the go.

Stay Connected **#ReadyTogether** Toolkit