

September is

# NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

## Week 1: Write a Plan



**During Week 1 of National Preparedness Month, we're encouraging you to write an emergency plan for your family!**

Focus your plan on emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live. Think about how you would respond to a wildfire or flooding, versus how you would respond to a house fire or pandemic emergency. Account for these different types of emergencies in your plan.

Visit <http://www.co.routt.co.us/948/Emergency-Preparedness> for templates, tips, and more!

### 1. Know Your Hazards

How can you plan for an emergency if you don't know what the hazards might be? One great place to look is the Routt County Hazard Mitigation Plan, where we've broken down the top natural hazards for our area.

Other hazards you might want to consider include cybersecurity, pandemics, active shooter events, hazardous materials incidents, house fires, and more!

### 3. Share Your Plan

Plans are only helpful if everyone knows what the plan says and what their individual roles and responsibilities are. Make sure you share your emergency plan with the whole family, including kids (as long as you're comfortable with the material) and elderly relatives. If you can, share your plan with your neighbors and close friends so they know what to expect as well.

### 2. Write Your Plan

Your plan should include things like important contact information, your plan of action for various emergencies, potential evacuation routes and meeting places, and anything else to help your family get ready.

There are many great templates available to help you organize and write your plan. Here is one option from the American Red Cross!

### 4. Make a Back-up Plan

Disasters and other emergencies are often unpredictable and unplanned. It's important you have a back-up plan in place just in case your regular plan is thwarted by the event. A back-up plan could include things such as alternate evacuation routes or meeting spots, additional contact information, plans for alternate power sources, and others. Keep in mind, it may be difficult to use cell phones in the event of an emergency!