



Natural disasters are the most common type of disaster, and no region of America is immune. When a natural disaster is approaching, do you know what to do? Where to go? What to watch out for when you return? If you choose to “shelter in place,” do you know how to protect and sustain yourself? Join Erik Estrada and firefighters from around the country as they share important tips on how to survive the following eight disasters:

- Earthquakes
- Wildland Fires
- Hurricanes
- Thunderstorms
- Tornadoes
- Winter Storms
- Floods
- Fire

**SITUATION:  
DISASTER!**  
*Situación: ¡Desastre!*

Hosted by Erik Estrada, and featuring firefighters from around the country, the Situation: Disaster! series clearly explains what steps you can take to protect yourself, your family and your property before, during and after a natural catastrophe.

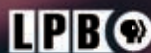
Programs are available in both English and Spanish.

- Program 1: Before a Natural Catastrophe (26:46)
- Program 2: During & After a Natural Catastrophe (26:46)

**SITUATION:  
DISASTER!**  
*Situación: ¡Desastre!*

[www.lpb.org/situationdisaster](http://www.lpb.org/situationdisaster)

For more information about this series, contact:



**Louisiana Public Broadcasting**  
7733 Perkins Road  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810  
800-973-7246 • 225-767-5660  
Fax: 225-767-4299  
[www.lpb.org](http://www.lpb.org)  
[orders@lpb.org](mailto:orders@lpb.org)



Copyright 2007 Louisiana Educational Television Authority

This series was funded by grant no. EMW-2002-FP-00365 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), an entity of the US Department of Homeland Security. This series is a collaborative effort between FEMA, the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office and Louisiana Public Broadcasting. ©2007 Louisiana Educational Television Authority. Louisiana Public Broadcasting is a service of the Louisiana Educational Television Authority.



**Two Natural Disaster Preparation Videos**  
Hosted By Erik Estrada  
in English & Spanish

**SITUATION:  
DISASTER!**  
*Situación: ¡Desastre!*



**LOUISIANA PUBLIC BROADCASTING**



Though the specifics may vary depending upon the situation, there are certain general preparations common to all disaster planning. Be sure that you:

1. Make a disaster plan.
2. Assemble a disaster supplies kit.
3. Maintain your plan and your kit.

*Recommended items to include in a disaster supplies kit are:*

- \*Food and water for at least 3 days,*
- \*Flashlight and battery-powered radio,*
- \*Medicine,*
- \*Emergency phone numbers,*
- \*Insurance policies, and other important papers.*

## Earthquakes



**BEFORE:** \*Practice earthquake drills. \*Hang pictures and mirrors away from beds and place large, heavy objects on lower shelves. \*Teach responsible family members

how to turn off all utilities.

**DURING & AFTER:** \*If you're inside when an earthquake hits, stay inside, stay put and take cover under furniture. \*If you're outside during an earthquake, stay outside but move away from buildings and utility wires. \*If you're in a vehicle, stop driving and remain inside. \*Be aware of gas leaks and aftershocks when returning home.

## Wildland Fires



**BEFORE:** \*Move combustible materials away from your house. \*Clear away flammable vegetation that is within 30 feet of all sides of your home. \*Plan several evacuation routes away from the area, including routes by car and by foot.

**DURING & AFTER:** \*Monitor the radio or TV for evacuation orders. \*If you leave, return only after the authorities give the "all clear." \*If you choose to stay and "shelter in place," wet your roof and any vegetation within 15 feet of the house; shut off the gas at the meter and turn off any propane tanks.

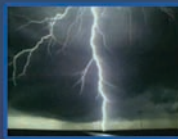
## Hurricanes



**BEFORE:** \*Listen to the radio and TV for local emergency information. \*Fill up your car with fuel. \*Take any order to evacuate seriously. \*Have a pre-arranged location to meet and an evacuation route in mind. \*Contact your local emergency management authorities if you have no transportation. \*Have an emergency communication plan with an out-of-state friend or relative who will serve as the "family contact."

**DURING & AFTER:** \*Before you evacuate, turn off gas, electricity, and water. \*If you are unable to evacuate, stay indoors; take your disaster supply kit and seek refuge in a room close to the center of the house. \*If you do lose electricity, DO NOT use generators indoors because they create deadly carbon monoxide gas.

## Thunderstorms



**BEFORE:** \*Avoid showering or taking a bath during a thunderstorm. \*Avoid using corded telephones. Use cordless or cellular telephones instead. \*Unplug appliances and turn off your air conditioning system.

**DURING & AFTER:** \*If outside during a storm, count to "30" once you see lightning. If you hear thunder before you reach "30," go indoors immediately. Do not go outside again until 30 minutes after you have heard the last clap of thunder. \*Contrary to popular belief, rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires do NOT provide protection from lightning.

## Tornadoes



**BEFORE:** \*Know the clues that a tornado is forming: high winds and very large hail, or a dark, often greenish sky. \*If you see or hear any of these signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

**DURING & AFTER:** \*If you're indoors, go to the center of an interior room. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. \*If you're trapped outside, lie flat in a ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. \*Never try to outrun a tornado in your car. Leave your vehicle immediately for shelter or a low flat location.

## Winter Storms



**BEFORE:** \*Keep a disaster supply kit and extra blankets in your vehicle at all times. \*Stay off the roads during a winter storm if at all possible.

**DURING & AFTER:** \*If you're trapped in your vehicle during a blizzard, remain inside: Turn on the emergency hazard lights and hang a cloth from the antenna or out a window to indicate distress. \*Only leave the car after the blizzard has passed. \*If you're trapped in your home without power, use only safe emergency heat sources and proper fuels. \*Avoid using candles for light. December is the peak month for home fires started by candles.

## Floods



**BEFORE:** \*Prepare a flood evacuation plan and know which roads tend to flood and which are passable. \*Monitor your TV or radio during severe weather. \*A flood warning

means flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if you're advised to evacuate, leave immediately.

**DURING & AFTER:** \*Don't drive during a flood situation except in an emergency. \*If you must drive avoid flooded areas: one foot, or less, of water can float a vehicle. \*If floodwaters rise around your vehicle, abandon it immediately. It is better to lose your car than your life!

## Fire



**BEFORE:** \*Natural gas leaks and explosions are responsible for a large number of fires following disasters. \*Have a fire evacuation plan and practice it twice a year. \*Put smoke detectors on every floor of your home and change the batteries in them at least once a year.

**DURING & AFTER:** \*If you lose electricity after a disaster, use flashlights instead of candles to avoid the risk of fire. \*If a fire breaks out that you can't easily extinguish, evacuate everyone immediately. \*Never go back into a burning home for anything.