

IS YOUR PROGRAM READY TO KEEP KIDS SAFE?

Sarah Thompson, MA, Associate
Director, U.S. Programs

Paul Myers, PhD, Director,
Preparedness

Get Ready. Get Safe.

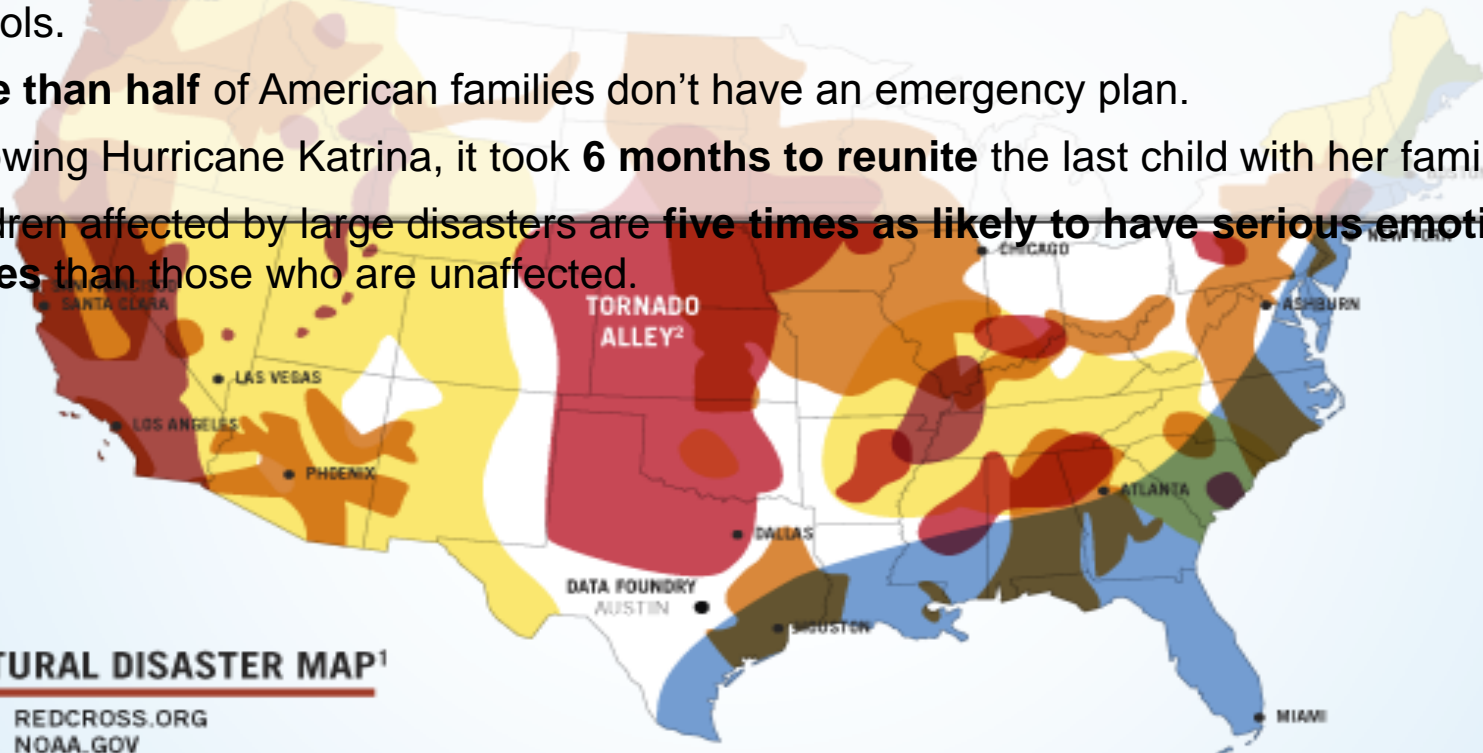




POLL

A Nation at Risk and *Children* are the most vulnerable

- Disasters can strike **anywhere at any time**.
- Each workday, **68 million** children are in child care or school, separated from their families.
- **28 states and D.C.** lack basic standards for protecting children in child care facilities and schools.
- **More than half** of American families don't have an emergency plan.
- Following Hurricane Katrina, it took **6 months to reunite** the last child with her family.
- Children affected by large disasters are **five times as likely to have serious emotional issues** than those who are unaffected.



US NATURAL DISASTER MAP¹

¹SOURCE: REDCROSS.ORG

²SOURCE: NOAA.GOV

■ EARTHQUAKES (MODERATE RISK) ■ EARTHQUAKES (HIGH RISK) ■ FLOODS ■ HURRICANES ■ TORNADOES

Unique Needs of Children

Children are not simply “little adults.”

- ▶ Reliance on Caregivers
- ▶ Communication & Identification
- ▶ Mobility
- ▶ Safety and Protection
- ▶ Physical Needs
- ▶ Nutritional Needs
- ▶ Emotional Needs
- ▶ Developmental Needs
- ▶ Routine and Comfort



Boy with an evacuation backpack in a Texas shelter following Hurricane Ike

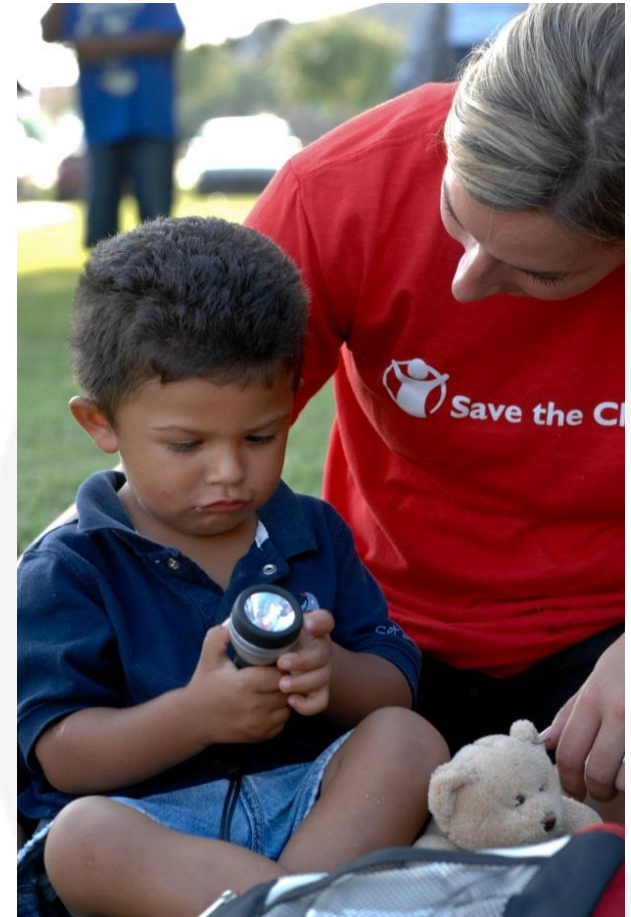
Who We Are

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 are dedicated to ensuring every child has the best chance for success. Our pioneering programs give children a healthy start, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. Our advocacy efforts provide a voice for children who cannot speak for themselves. By transforming children's lives now, we change the course of their



Protecting Children in Emergencies

- Since Hurricane Katrina, **Save the Children** has served more than 800,000 children impacted by US emergencies.
- Respond to every major disaster in US
- Led the National Commission on Children and Disasters
- Partner nationally and locally with American Red Cross, FEMA
- Annual Disaster Report Card



Preparing Your Care

What if disaster struck today? Would you be ready?

Save the Children's Child Care Emergency Preparedness Training

Online: www.savethechildren.org/GetReady

- FREE
- Self-paced
- Training Manual and Participant Workbook
- Certificate for 4.0 Contact Hours



Preparedness is Essential

“Being prepared can help your child care facility...”

- **Protect the lives of the children in your care.**

- **Protect the staff and volunteers at your facility.**

- **Minimize risks.**

- **Safeguard your business and reopen more quickly after a disaster.**

You're on the Front Lines

- 1. Identify Hazards and Risks.**
- 2. Review Eight National Best Practices.**
- 3. Identify tools to communicate, practice, and update plans.**





IDENTIFYING HAZARDS & RISKS



Identifying Your Hazards and Risks

Categories of Hazards and Risk

1. Natural: Hurricanes, fires, snow storms, illness outbreaks
2. Manmade/Technological: Hazardous materials, utility outages
3. Safety: Intruders, missing or lost children



Who Can Help Identify Hazards?

- ❑ Parents
- ❑ Staff
- ❑ First Responders
- ❑ Local Emergency Managers
- ❑ Resource and Referral Agency
- ❑ Local School District
- ❑ State Agencies (Health, Child Services, etc.)
- ❑ Insurance Provider
- ❑ Local Utilities

Working together with community partners to develop and build upon your emergency plans is vital for the safety of your program during an emergency.

Reducing the Risks



Structural Elements



Nonstructural Elements

Reducing the Risks

Identify community partners and other resources to help you begin working to...

- Identify hazards and risks.
- Develop strategies.
- Identify members from the community.
- Regularly check for new hazards and address as needed.

Severe Weather: During a Threat

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Obtain an NOAA Weather Radio.
- Follow instruction from local officials.
- Bring children and staff indoors, postpone outdoor activities, and stay inside.





NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES



Eight Best Practices

1. Make a written plan.
2. Maintain current health and safety information.
3. Develop and implement family communication and reunification plans.
4. Identify emergency team and procedures.
5. Assemble emergency equipment and supplies.
6. Practice your plan.
7. Include children and adults with all levels of abilities.
8. Protect program information and assets.

Best Practice One

Make a Written Plan

- Consider the size of your program.
- Gather essential information needed for first response agencies.
- Include info on how many children are served in your facility, address of your program, and contact information.
- Diagram facility with shelter-in-place locations, exits, and outside evacuation sites.
- Include letters of agreement with partnering organizations.

Best Practice Two

Maintain Current Health and Safety Information for Children and Staff

- Gather current emergency contact information for families and staff.
- Obtain Emergency Releases for permission to transport and provide emergency medical care to children.
- Enhance your child-staff roster using electronic storage of information.
- Produce child identification badges.



Best Practice Three

Develop and Implement Family Communication and Reunification Plans

- A communication plan, back-up plan, and a back-up for the back-up plan.
- Emergency plan wallet cards for families with off-site evacuation location(s) and emergency contact numbers.
- A plan for reunification of children with their caregivers.

Best Practice Four

Identify Emergency Team and Procedures for Evacuation, Shelter-in-Place and Lock Down

Plan to:

- Evacuate
- Shelter-in-place
- Lock down the facility

Imagine and plan for different emergencies:

- Tornado
- Flash floods
- Explosions
- Hurricane
- Intruder



Best Practice Five

Assemble Emergency Equipment and Supplies

- Identify supplies needed in case of an emergency:
 - Supplies to shelter-in-place
 - Supplies to evacuate
 - Supplies kept in vehicles
- Have a designated first aid kit(s) and AED(s).

Best Practice Six

Practice Your Plan

- All staff members and volunteers should be aware of your plans.
- Having a written schedule for training and drills.
- Drills should include:
 - All children
 - Every employee
 - Every volunteer



Best Practice Seven

Include Children and Adults with All Levels of Abilities in Your Plans

- Ensure emergency plans include staff, volunteers and children of all abilities, such as provisions for:
 - Children in wheelchairs
 - Adults with sensory impairments
 - Children with medical devices
 - Food allergies
 - Safe transportation of medications that require refrigeration

Best Practice Eight

Protect Program Information and Assets

By storing duplicate copies of essential records in an off-site location, you will help ensure the safety of:

- Enrollment data
- Employment records
- Inventory
- Insurance records
- Bank account information





COMMUNICATE & PRACTICE THE PLAN



Communication

- Every adult should understand their role.
- Include emergency training in your new staff and parent orientation meetings.
- Communicate the plan with families.
- Schedule when you will review and update facility plans.
- Schedule regular monthly drills and emergency plan check-ups.



AFTER A DISASTER

After a Disaster

- Take care of yourself
- Commit to the long-term
- Monitor children's behavior



First Steps to Recovery

- Establish safety and control
- Return to routine
- Validate
- Be positive
- Aid understanding
- Encourage creativity

Ability to Cope

- Coping mechanisms in children are different than in adults
- Typical childhood fears are exacerbated
- After a disaster, a child may be especially afraid of...
 - A reoccurrence, injury or death
 - Being separated from family
 - Being left alone or abandoned



Complicating Fear Reactions

- Some children are unable to articulate fear
- Reactions of parents/guardians
- Distinguishing a real threat from an imaginary one; role of imagination



Reactions to Fear

- Increased dependency
- Staying close to home
- Asking to sleep with parents
- Night terrors
- Bed-wetting
- Sensitivity to noise
- Irritability
- Phobias
- Guilt reactions
- Hyperactivity

What the Child Needs



- Calm presence and consistent contact with children, families and adults who are there to help
- Assurance of safety and security
- Explanation of what happened in words they can understand
- Encouragement and acceptance to act out and play out their feelings
 - Value of play: Research shows play is the means for a child to learn, explore and experiment.

Remember

- Although fear and anxiety affect people of all ages in a disaster, children are affected in specific ways based on their age and experience
- Adults must provide a calm presence and supportive environment
- Some regressive behavior is normal
- Children need to have enough information to process events



PREPARING YOUR COMMUNITY



Preparing Your Community

- As care providers you are leaders for protecting children
- You set the tone for the families and communities you serve

Preparing a Nation

Get Ready Get Safe is a pioneering Save the Children initiative designed to help US 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.

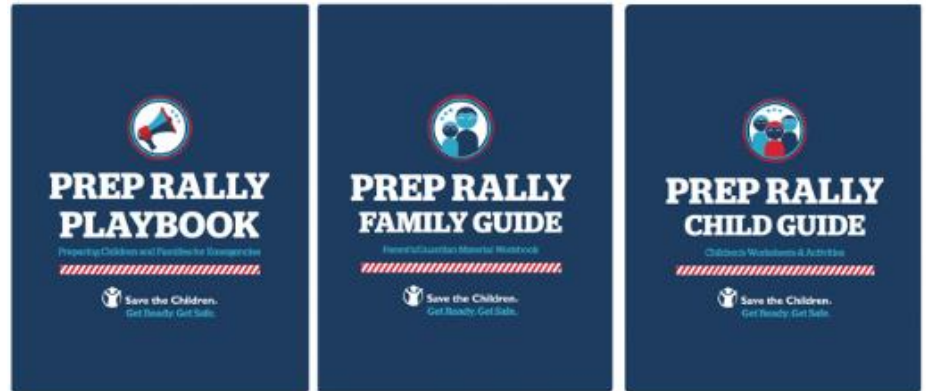
Get Ready Resources

- **Preparedness Pledge**
- **Get Ready Get Safe Newsletter**
- **Prep Rally Kit**
- **Parent and Caregiver Resources**
- **Disaster Report Card/ Preparedness Map**
- **Training Hub**
 - **Child Care Emergency Preparedness Training**
 - **Children First**

Building a Prep Rally

Prep Rally Kit

- Prep Rally Playbook
- Family Resource Guide
- Children 's Activity Book
- Prep Rally Quick Guides: Assemblies; Booths
- Promotional Materials
- Share Your Story!



The kit is **FREE!**
And downloadable at
www.savethechildren.org/GetReady

Prep Rally Content: Prep Steps



Prep Rally for Young Children

- Cheers
- Story Book Read Along
- What Makes You Feel Safe?
- Identification practice/ID cards
- Leader Says Game: Make a Plan
- Who to Trust
- Supplies Relay
- Pledge
- Parent Resources



QUESTIONS

Thank you

Resources

- Save the Children Get Ready Get Safe: www.savethechildren.org/GetReady
- Protecting Children in Child Care During Emergencies, Save the Children, NACCRRA, 2010
- Child Care Aware of America: <http://childcareaware.org/parents-and-guardians/resources/preparing-for-disaster-the-parent-view>
- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Website to Find State Emergency Management Office: <http://www.fema.gov/regional-operations/state-offices-and-agencies-emergency-management>
- National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education Child Care Regulation Agencies By State: <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>
- FEMA: <http://www.fema.gov/plan-prepare-mitigate>
- American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org/prepare>

Contact Info

Sarah Thompson, Associate Director, US Programs, Save the Children
sthompson@savechildren.org

Paul Myers, PhD, Director, Emergency Preparedness, Save the Children
pmyers@savechildren.org