



B&B Emergency Planning

Are you prepared?

Earthquakes, winter weather, severe summer storms, extended power outages...what do they all have in common? They happen here in Virginia and sometimes without notice. Are you and your guests prepared to be self sufficient for up to 72 hours? As citizens we all have a responsibility to plan for natural and manmade emergencies. B&B owners may have the unique experience of being expected by your customers to care for their needs during an emergency event so what can you do to be prepared.

- Make a disaster preparedness kit to include items such as flashlights, battery operated or hand crank FM/AM radio, first aid kit, directions and tools to cut off your utilities if needed. For a complete list of items click the link below.
- Have a supply of non-perishable food and bottled water on hand to last three days.
- Blankets or sleeping bags for staff and guests.
- Games, puzzles or other low tech entertainment options.
- Duct tape, plastic sheeting, masks—things that may be used to shelter in place.
- Have a communications plan—with your family, vendors and service providers.
- Contact your local emergency manager or fire department and inquire about any alerting system available to you and your guests.
- Make sure your pets are prepared including those that are visiting—do they have special food or diet needs?

For more information on getting prepared [click here](#).

Help us help you, and your guests!

In the event that you should need police, fire or emergency medical services there are things you can do to help us help you.

- Your address should be visible from the street. Reflective address signs mounted on a mailbox or fence post are a life saver at night!
- Ensure your driveway is free of obstructions and trees or landscaping infringing overhead. At a minimum we need 12 feet of width to get a fire engine to your property.
- Ensure sidewalks, entrances and other means of access are unobstructed and clear of ice/snow/debris.
- Area rugs or other floor finishes should be secured to prevent slips, trips and falls but also to allow a patient stretcher to easily navigate your property.
- If your property has a fire alarm or security system ensure all passwords, codes, etc are up to date and in a location accessible by the first arriving fire or police units.
- If your property is ever unoccupied for extended periods of time consider a Knox Box to allow fire department access with no property damage. For more information [click here](#) or contact your local fire department.

Disaster Plan



Fire Safety Checklist

- Is there a working smoke alarm in each sleeping area?
- Do you have fuel fired appliances? If so is there a working carbon monoxide detector?
- Are fire extinguishers readily available? Are they in working order?
- Can an ambulance or fire engine access your property?
- Can you and your guests safely evacuate the property? Are doors and windows blocked?
- Do all of your windows easily open in case you or your guests need a secondary exit?
- Is your electrical system up to date and safe?
- Extension cords are not to be used as a substitute for permanent wiring.
- Is your address visible from the street?