HOUSEHOLD RISK ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

Know your local hazards. Understand your warning time. Build a plan that fits your reality.

HOUSEHOLD NAME

DATE COMPLETED / LAST UPDATED

HOW TO USE THIS WORKSHEET

Complete all sections • Review with your household • Update annually

1. Work through each hazard section and check the box if that hazard applies to your area.
2. Fill in the notes line for each hazard you check — note your street, neighborhood, or zone if relevant.
3. Use the "Where to Look" reference to find official risk information for your specific address.
4. Complete the Summary page to identify your top 2–3 hazards and their warning times.
5. Share this worksheet with your household — your evacuation plan depends on what you find here.
6. Review annually or whenever you move, or after a local hazard event.

Why this matters: A family in a hurricane zone and a family in an earthquake zone need completely different plans. Your warning time — whether you have seconds, hours, or days — determines what you can realistically do. This worksheet helps you build a plan that fits *your* situation, not a generic checklist.

UNDERSTANDING WARNING TIME

Warning time is how long you typically have between the moment a hazard becomes imminent and the moment you need to act. It shapes everything about your evacuation plan.

NO WARNING Seconds	MINUTES 2–15 min	HOURS 1–12 hrs	DAYS 12+ hrs
Earthquake House fire Gas leak Flash flood	Tornado Tsunami (coastal) Fast wildfire	Wildfire Rising flood Hazmat spill Ice storm	Hurricane Planned evacuation Winter storm
Grab go-bag and get out. No time for anything else.	Go-bag + pets. Drive your evacuation route now.	Go-bag + extras. Secure home. Notify contacts.	Full prep. Load vehicle. Shut off utilities. Board up if needed.

SECTION 1 — NATURAL HAZARDS

Check each hazard that may affect your area. Fill in notes. Use the "Where to Look" reference.

Natural hazards are caused by forces of nature. Your risk depends on where you live — your region, your specific neighborhood, and even your street. Use official sources to look up your actual risk zone, not just a general sense of whether you live "near" a hazard.

☐ ■ **EARTHQUAKE**

Typical warning time: No warning — seconds

Notes: Do you live near a known fault line? Multi-story building? Older construction?

Where to look: USGS Earthquake Hazards Program → earthquake.usgs.gov | Your state geological survey

☐ ■ **TSUNAMI**

Typical warning time: Minutes to 1 hour (local vs. dista

Notes: Are you within a designated tsunami inundation zone? Distance from coast or estuary?

Where to look: NOAA Tsunami Preparedness → tsunami.gov | Your state emergency management tsunami map

☐ ■ **WILDFIRE**

Typical warning time: Minutes to days (depends on cond

Notes: WUI (wildland-urban interface) zone? Nearby dry vegetation or canyon? Past fire history?

Where to look: USFS Fire Hazard Severity Zones | Risk Factor → riskfactor.com | County fire maps

☐ ■ **FLOOD (riverine / overland)**

Typical warning time: Hours to days

Notes: What is your FEMA flood zone designation? Low-lying area? Near creek or river?

Where to look: FEMA Flood Map Service Center → msc.fema.gov | Enter your address for your flood zone

☐ ■ **FLASH FLOOD**

Typical warning time: Little to no warning

Notes: Downstream of dam? Canyon or box canyon? History of localized flooding in your area?

Where to look: FEMA Flood Map | Local NWS office → weather.gov | County floodplain manager

☐ ■ **HURRICANE / TROPICAL STORM**

Typical warning time: Days (typically 3–10 days)

Notes: What hurricane evacuation zone are you in? Storm surge risk? Mobile or manufactured home?

Where to look: Your county emergency management hurricane zone map | nhc.noaa.gov

☐ ■ **TORNADO**

Typical warning time: Minutes (often 0–13 min avera

Notes: In a tornado-prone region? Mobile home or manufactured housing? No basement?

Where to look: NOAA Storm Prediction Center → spc.noaa.gov | Historical tornado tracks for your county

☐ ■ **VOLCANIC ERUPTION / LAHAR**

Typical warning time: Hours to days (varies by type

Notes: Near an active volcano? In a lahar or ashfall hazard zone?

Where to look: USGS Volcano Hazards → volcanoes.usgs.gov | Your state geological survey volcano maps

☐ ■ **LANDSLIDE / DEBRIS FLOW**

Typical warning time: Little to no warning

Notes: Steep slope above home? History of slides in area? Unstable soils or recent burn scar?

Where to look: USGS Landslide Hazards → usgs.gov/programs/landslide-hazards | State geological survey

☐ ■ **SEVERE WINTER STORM / ICE STORM**

Typical warning time: Hours to days

Notes: How often does your area lose power in winter? Sole access road prone to closure?

Where to look: Your local NWS office → weather.gov | State DOT road condition reports

☐ ■ **EXTREME HEAT**

Typical warning time: Hours to days

Notes: No air conditioning? Urban heat island? Household members with heat vulnerability?

Where to look: NWS heat index charts | CDC Extreme Heat → emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat

☐ ■ **DROUGHT / WILDFIRE SMOKE**

Typical warning time: Days to weeks

Notes: Air quality regularly affected? Household members with respiratory conditions?

Where to look: AirNow → airnow.gov | US Drought Monitor → droughtmonitor.unl.edu

SECTION 2 — HUMAN-CAUSED & INFRASTRUCTURE HAZARDS

These hazards are caused by accidents, failures, or deliberate acts — they can happen anywhere.

You don't have to live near a coastline or fault line to face evacuation. Industrial accidents, infrastructure failures, and community-level events affect every region. Many of these hazards provide little or no warning.

☐ ■ **HAZMAT / CHEMICAL SPILL** — Typical warning time: Little to no warning

Notes: Near a highway, rail line, industrial facility, or chemical plant?

Where to look: EPA Facility Registry → epa.gov/frs | Local LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee)

☐ ■ **HOUSE FIRE** — Typical warning time: No warning — seconds

Notes: Working smoke detectors on every level? Clear exit routes? Older wiring?

Where to look: NFPA home fire safety → nfpa.org | Your local fire department

☐ ■ **EXTENDED POWER OUTAGE** — Typical warning time: Little to no warning (storm-related)

Notes: Medical equipment requiring power? Well pump? Electric heat? How long could you shelter?

Where to look: Your utility company's outage history and PSPS policies | FEMA → ready.gov

☐ ■ **DAM FAILURE / CONTROLLED RELEASE** — Typical warning time: Minutes to hours

Notes: Downstream of a dam? Has your area received dam inundation maps?

Where to look: FEMA National Dam Safety Program | Your state dam safety office | County EMA

☐ ■ **GAS LEAK / EXPLOSION RISK** — Typical warning time: No warning

Notes: Natural gas service to home? Near a gas distribution line or storage facility?

Where to look: Know your utility shutoff location | Your gas utility's emergency contact

☐ ■ **CIVIL UNREST / COMMUNITY EMERGENCY** — Typical warning time: Hours to days

Notes: Near a large event venue, government center, or protest corridor?

Where to look: Your local emergency management office | Sign up for local alert system

☐ ■ **PANDEMIC / PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY** — Typical warning time: Days to weeks

Notes: Household members with high vulnerability? Plan for sheltering in place vs. evacuation?

Where to look: CDC Emergency Preparedness → emergency.cdc.gov | Your local health department

☐ ■ **CYBER ATTACK / INFRASTRUCTURE FAILURE** — Typical warning time: Little to no warning

Notes: Dependent on internet, digital payments, or online services for daily essentials?

Where to look: CISA → cisa.gov | Keep cash on hand and paper backup of key contacts

SECTION 3 — HOME & HOUSEHOLD FACTORS

These factors affect how quickly and easily you can evacuate — regardless of hazard type.

■ **Mobile or manufactured home**	Higher vulnerability in wind/seismic events. Consider early departure triggers.
■ **Multi-story home**	Multiple exit routes needed. Upper-floor escape ladders?

■ **Long or single-access driveway / road**	Could be blocked in wildfire, flood, or debris. Know alternate routes.
■ **Household member with mobility limitations**	May need more time and assistance. Plan for this specifically.
■ **Pets (especially large animals or livestock)**	Requires advance planning. Pet-friendly shelters are limited.
■ **Dependents who need assistance evacuating**	Infants, elderly, or those with cognitive needs require dedicated planning.
■ **Medical equipment requiring power**	Register with your utility as a medical baseline customer.
■ **Vehicle reliability concerns**	Could you evacuate if your primary vehicle was unavailable?

SECTION 4 — YOUR LOCAL ALERT & WARNING SYSTEMS

Know how you will be notified BEFORE an emergency. Set these up now.

Official warnings only help if you receive them. Different systems cover different hazards — and some require you to sign up in advance. Complete this section now, while everything is calm.

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

Automatically sent to your cell phone in an emergency area. No signup required. Make sure your phone's emergency alerts are ENABLED.

→ **Check: Settings → Notifications → Emergency Alerts. Confirm they are ON.**

NOAA Weather Radio

Continuous weather and emergency broadcasts. Works when cell and internet are down. Battery or hand-crank.

→ **Action: Purchase a NOAA weather radio and program your local transmitter frequency. Keep batteries fresh.**

Local/County Alert System

Many counties have opt-in notification systems for local emergencies (evacuations, boil water, etc.).

→ **Action: Search "[your county] emergency alert sign up" and register ALL household phones and email addresses.**

Know Your Evacuation Zones

Many areas have pre-designated evacuation zones (especially for wildfire, hurricane, and tsunami). Know yours before an evacuation order is issued.

→ **Action: Search "[your county] evacuation zone map" and write your zone in the field below.**

FILL IN YOUR LOCAL ALERT INFORMATION

County / Local Alert System Name & Sign-up URL

Your Household Evacuation Zone (wildfire, hurricane, tsunami, etc.)

NOAA Weather Radio Frequency for Your Area

Local Emergency Management Website / Phone

SECTION 5 — YOUR EVACUATION TRIGGERS

Pre-decide when you will leave. This removes hesitation in a high-stress moment.

One of the biggest mistakes families make is waiting too long to evacuate. Pre-deciding your personal triggers — the conditions under which you will leave, regardless of official orders — removes that hesitation. Write your triggers for your top hazards

below.

Hazard	Example personal trigger
Wildfire	*We leave when a fire is within 10 miles of our neighborhood, or when we see smoke.*
Flood	*We leave when the creek reaches the road, or when a Watch is issued for our county.*
Hurricane	*We leave when a Category 2+ is forecast within 3 days of our location.*
Earthquake	*We leave immediately if the structure is damaged or utilities are compromised.*

YOUR PERSONAL EVACUATION TRIGGERS

Hazard	Our household will leave when...

SECTION 6 — YOUR RISK SUMMARY

Consolidate what you found. These are the hazards your evacuation plan must address.

Review your checked hazards from Sections 1 and 2. List your top 2–3 hazards below — the ones most likely to affect your household, or the ones with the most severe consequences. These are the scenarios your evacuation plan is built around.

	e.g. Earthquake	*No Warning / Minutes / Hours / Days*	*e.g. Near fault line, no basement*
1 (Highest)			
2			
3			

HOW YOUR RISKS SHAPE YOUR PLAN

Use the warning time of your top hazard to understand which evacuation tier your plan must be built around. If your primary hazard is an earthquake, your plan must work with zero warning. If it's a hurricane, you may have days — but that doesn't mean you can afford to wait.

IF YOUR PRIMARY HAZARD HAS NO WARNING (earthquake, house fire, gas leak):

- Your go-bag must be packed, placed near the exit, and everyone must know where it is.
- Practice your exit route until it is automatic. No decision-making in the moment.
- You have no time to grab anything that isn't already in your bag.

IF YOUR PRIMARY HAZARD GIVES MINUTES (tornado, flash flood, tsunami):

- Go-bag + pets. Know your route and drive it now.
- Have a pre-decided trigger so you move before the warning, not after.
- No time for additional preparation at the moment of the event.

IF YOUR PRIMARY HAZARD GIVES HOURS (wildfire, rising flood, hazmat):

- Go-bag plus a short additional list (documents, medications, pets, valuables).
- Know your utility shutoffs. Brief household on roles.
- Pre-decided trigger is still essential — don't wait for a mandatory order.

IF YOUR PRIMARY HAZARD GIVES DAYS (hurricane, planned evacuation):

- Full preparation: load vehicle, secure home, shut off utilities, notify contacts.
- Know your destination and backup destination in advance.
- Earlier departure = safer departure. Traffic and shortages worsen over time.

YOUR NEXT STEPS — BUILD ON THIS FOUNDATION

1 **Build your Home Evacuation Plan.**

Now that you know your risks and warning times, build the plan itself: exit routes, who grabs what, household roles, and utility shutoffs. Download at cascadiareadyradio.com.

2 **Pack your go-bag.**

One per person. Grab-and-go in under 2 minutes. Your go-bag is your constant — it goes with you regardless of warning time. Episode 6 of Cascadia Ready Radio covers this fully.

3 **Complete your Family Communications Plan.**

Your out-of-area contact, two meeting places, and your kids' school reunification procedure. If you haven't done this yet, start here — download at cascadiareadyradio.com.

4 **Sign up for your local alert system.**

Use the information from Section 4 of this worksheet. Do it today.

5 **Review this worksheet annually.**

Update it when you move, when your household changes, or after a local hazard event.

PLAN REVIEW LOG

Tip: Review whenever clocks change for daylight saving time — twice a year is ideal.

Date Reviewed	Reviewed By	Changes Made	Next Review Due

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