



**Please use this number only during and after
a disaster when you need to evacuate.**

1-866-940-DSHS (3747)

**DSHS—Children's Administration
Reconnecting Families After Disaster
planning checklist for foster parents and caregivers**

Emergency Preparedness is the Key to Recovery

Reconnecting Families After Disaster

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For Foster Families and Caregivers

What should I do?

Before a disaster:

- Create a family disaster plan and an emergency kit (check web sites below)
- Talk to your children and family about the plan
- Practice the plan
- Establish a safe meeting place if your family becomes separated
- Call your social worker or licensor to update your emergency contact number
- Use direct deposit for your foster care payment so you continue to receive funds, even if mail systems are down, local banks are closed, or you have relocated

During a disaster:

- Make sure you know where your children are
- If possible, get approval before leaving the state. However, you and your family's safety is most important
- At your earliest opportunity, let us know where and how you are by calling your licensor or social worker or toll free: 1-866-940-DSHS (3747)

Be informed—information web sites:

- www.redcross.org/index.html
- www.bt.cdc.gov/
- <http://ready.gov/>
- www.emd.wa.gov/
- www.fema.gov/kids/
- www.fema.gov/areyouready/