

City of St. Charles Recovery Checklist for the Family

	DONE	Follow Up	Notes
Read all of the following before you exit to a safe place of refuge.			
Seek assistance & comfort with your neighbors. Help one another & share resources.			
If an emergency exists, call 911 or stop a passing police or fire vehicle. Following a large disaster or event, public safety resources may not be immediately available due to serving known true emergencies.			
If you cannot access emergency assistance by 911 or other methods, consider assisting the injured in the priority sequence of airway management (breathing), bleeding control (bandage & direct pressure) & broken bones (immobilize the break and joints either side). Consider transporting the victim in a car to a local hospital emergency room. If you suspect a back/spine/neck injury, DO NOT move the victim, wait for professional assistance.			
When you go outside from your safe place of refuge be aware of hazards such as downed electrical power lines, leaking natural gas, fast moving rain water drainage, dangerous trees/limbs, unstable structures, etc. Situational awareness is key for your safety & survival.			
Secure valuables from your house & vehicle. Safeguard them from further damage (plastic tarps/large garbage bags).			
Attempt to contact friends & relatives to let them know your status & needs.			
If your family has been separated (some at work, some at school when event occurred) consider going to your pre-defined gathering point or calling the pre-defined contact phone number.			
Conserve food by keeping your refrigerator closed if power is out. Secure a safe water source.			
Safeguard your pets & children from outside hazards. Provide clear safe boundaries in safe zones for children & pets.			
Contact your insurance company. In large-scale disasters, place a sign in your front yard with your insurance company's name on it. Insurance adjusters from your company may report directly to damaged neighborhoods to assist clients.			
Be prepared to find temporary housing if your house has significant structural damage.			

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Don't fall prey to scam artists with offers to provide immediate repairs or remedies for cash. Hire only reputable, local contractors.			
Be careful with candles, generators & chain saws. All present hazards & should not be used indoors due to fire threat, carbon monoxide fumes & accidental electrocutions. Eye & hand protection should be worn when chain saws are used.			
Pumping out basements is useless until outside ground water has drained down storm sewers & the water level on streets is eliminated.			
Do not go into a flooded basement unless the electricity & natural gas has been shut off.			
Do not use an oven for indoor heat & never bring a barbecue grill indoors to cook. Both breed deadly carbon monoxide.			
Stay away from swift moving water or water that is a whirlpool. Often street drain covers are displaced & the swift water can knock a grown person off of their feet & into an open street drain.			
Use of ladders around fallen trees or on a roof is dangerous until all power-lines are accounted for & de-energized.			
Remember sense of community. Neighbors helping neighbors, friends helping friends. We will make it through this with the help of one another.			
In a large-scale disaster, the City will open recovery assistance sites in several areas of the City where damage has occurred. Go to your closest public school or City facility to find out the recovery assistance site locations.			