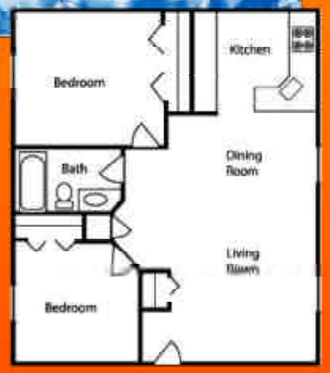
MAKE A PLAN

Prepare your family by creating a family disaster plan. Have your family review hazards, warning systems, evacuation routes, and community shelters. Discuss with them what you would do if family members are not home when a warning is issued. Your family plan should include the following:

- Escape routes
- Family communications
- Utility shut-off and safety
- Insurance and vital records
- Special needs
- Caring for animals
- Safety skills



Draw a floor plan of your home. Use a blank sheet of paper for each floor. Mark two escape routes from each room. Make sure children understand the drawings. Post a copy of the drawings at eye level in each child's room. Establish a place to meet in the event of an emergency, and record the locations.

If you have gas lines, know the proper shut-off procedure for your meter, and share that information with everyone in your household.

Water is a precious resource following any natural disaster. Know where the shut-off valve is to your household water supply, and make sure it is in working order.

In addition to knowing the main shut-off valves to the gas and water, be prepared to cut off electricity. Electrical sparks have the potential of igniting natural gas if it is leaking. It is wise to teach all responsible household members where and how to shut off the electricity at the main circuit box.

Assemble the following, and store in a safe place:

- Insurance records
- Inventory of Home Possessions
- Important documents
- Money

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POC: Claudia Beach, 301-903-9826