

# Priority Tasks

## FAMILY

STEP 1	<b>Practice life safety.</b> Are lives at risk? Can you help? Ensure you have appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment (e.g. masks, gloves, sturdy shoes, hard hat, etc.). <i>Remember, life safety is the first priority!</i>
STEP 2	<b>Assess the damage.</b> <i>If safe</i> , take a walk around the building. Try to determine what has happened, what is happening now, and how many people are involved.
STEP 3	<b>Keep informed.</b> Listen to Emergency Alert System notifications, AM/FM emergency broadcast stations, and/or NOAA weather radio. Check <a href="http://www.vcemergency.com">www.vcemergency.com</a>
STEP 4	<b>Identify unforeseen events.</b> Check the natural gas or propane at your home. Shut off if necessary. <i>This is one of the best ways to prevent fire.</i>  Shut off water at the house main to trap water in your home plumbing. <i>This will keep pollutants out of possible drinking water, like that in your water heater.</i>
STEP 7	<b>Establish priorities.</b> Check on neighbors, especially those who are elderly, disabled, or young children who may be alone. Be prepared to give first aid. Trust your instincts. <i>If something feels unsafe, stay out.</i>
STEP 8	<b>Develop a plan of action.</b> Assign roles and responsibilities. Plans should be simple and verbal.
STEP 9	<b>Take action.</b> Execute your plan and adjust as necessary.
STEP 10	<b>Evaluate progress.</b> Is your plan of action working? Determine what changes need to be made and adjust plan accordingly.