

# Safe and equal in the event of a flood, earthquake or wildfire

This text is in Easy-to-read.

The information is for:

- people who are deaf or hard of hearing,
- deafblind people,
- their family members and
- personal assistants.

The text is part of the project  
Safe and equal in Emergencies.

This is the logo of the project.



This is the European  
Easy-to-read logo.



# Safe and equal in the event of a flood, earthquake or wildfire

Flood, earthquake, and wildfire are natural disasters.

Natural disasters are emergencies.

Natural disasters happen all the time.

We can sometimes tell in advance if disasters will happen.

But some disasters happen without warning.

Everyone must be prepared for natural disasters.

Everyone needs the right guidance and accessible information.

Accessible information is information we can read and understand.

The right guidance and accessible information can save our lives.

That is why we wrote this text in Easy-to-read.

We can read and understand it easier.

In this text you can read directions about:

- **what to do to prepare for disasters,**
- **what to do during a disaster,**
- **what to do after a disaster.**

Sometimes we don't know how to communicate well with people who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind. Here we give some **useful tips.**

We also wrote some information about the number **112**.



Easy-to-read directions are also available for people who are blind or partially sighted.

The directions are also available in Slovenian language.

All information is on the website [www.gov.si](http://www.gov.si).

## Preparing for disasters

We can prepare ourselves for natural disasters.

First, we check where we live.

We check if we live in an environment with repeated floods, earthquakes or wildfires.

We make sure that we and our home are safe and secure.

### **We can protect our home and keep it safe**

#### **Preparing for an earthquake**

We protect ourselves from an earthquake like this:

- We fix the furniture to a wall or other support.  
This means that we place the furniture securely.  
We screw the furniture to the wall with screws.
- We place heavy and large objects on lower shelves.
- We do not hang things above the bed and seats.

#### **Preparing for a flood**

We can protect ourselves from flooding.

In rooms where flooding can happen, we:

- Lift furniture and other objects from the floor.
- For the floors and walls,  
we use materials  
we can clean and dry quickly.

Make sure that the water around the house can drain away,  
For example, we clean the drains and gutters around the house.

### **Preparing for a wildfire**

We protect ourselves from wildfires like this:

- We clean the surroundings of the house or other building.  
We remove rubbish and dead leaves.
- We keep things that burn quickly in a safe place.  
Things that can burn quickly are called combustible materials.
- We remove branches and dry grass.

We can ask relatives, friends or neighbours for help.

### **Our State protects us and keeps us safe**

When it is unsafe to stay at home, the State directs us what to do.

The State directs us to take some actions called protective measures.

The protective measures are:

- **evacuation:** Evacuation means that we must leave our home for some time.  
We move to a safe place for some time.
- **temporary residence:**  
Temporary residence means that we live somewhere else for a short time.
- **protection** from nuclear, chemical and biological weapons

When we leave our home because of an Evacuation,  
**it is important to:**

- Follow the directions of the responsible services: rescuers or police officers, fire brigade, civil protection service.
- Say that we need help.
- Have the essential things that we need ready to take to our temporary residence.
- Think about our needs and the needs of our family.
- Take essential things with us including medications and paper and pencil for communicating.

At the temporary residence  
where we will be staying for a short time,  
it is important that:

- We tell the staff our personal data, like who we are.
- The staff takes care of the most urgent care. The staff makes sure that we have drinks, food, medicine, that we are warm and more.
- We tell the staff what kind of help we need.
- We tell the staff what we need.
- We tell our relatives where we are.

The staff are people  
who work at the temporary residence  
where we will be staying for a short time.

When a natural disaster happens, this could happen:

- Rescuers cannot come to help right away.
- We run out of electricity, natural gas or water.
- We do not have heating.
- Phones, television and radio are not working,
- We can't go to the store, pharmacy or doctor.

What problems might we have?

Who can help us?

People can help one another.

Relatives and friends help each other.

Neighbours and colleagues help each other.

Who can help us during and after a disaster?

**Remember.**

Before going to bed,  
always put hearing aids  
in the same place so that you can  
find them quickly  
if there is an emergency.

For communicating,  
have a paper and pencil ready.

Make a card and write down information.

For example:

**I use sign language.**

**I do not hear.**



## During a natural disaster

### **During an earthquake**

During an earthquake,  
we feel the ground shake and move.

We must find a safe place.

A safe place is:

- under large and hard tables,
- between the door frames,
- in load-bearing walls or next to internal bearing walls.

We squat down.

We bend our head towards our knees.

We protect our head and neck  
by putting our arms over the top of our head  
and our hands on the back of our neck.

If we are outside,  
we go away from houses or buildings.  
It is not always possible  
to get away from houses or buildings.  
In that case we find a safe place  
in a doorway in a brick or concrete wall.

During an earthquake,  
we can get stuck in the ruins.

We stay calm.

If it is dusty,  
we cover our mouth and nose.

We use a handkerchief  
or part of the clothing.

We inform others that we are stuck.

We hit an object against a metal or a wall.  
It is important to hit at regular intervals.  
This will help the rescuers to find us faster.

### **During a flood**

During a flood,  
water can come into the house.

In a flood,  
we can feel the water under our feet.  
We move to a higher floor.  
If we are outdoors,  
we go to a place  
that the water cannot reach.

Sometimes the water  
comes to our knees.  
Even if the water is only up to the knees,  
do not stay or step into the water.  
Water can sweep us away.

Do not drive on flooded roads.  
If roads are blocked  
or underpasses are closed,  
follow directions.

### **During a wildfire**

During a wildfire,  
there is smoke in the air.  
Close the windows and doors.  
Turn off the ventilation and  
air conditioning.  
Move away objects  
that the fire can reach.





## After a disaster

### **After an earthquake**

After an earthquake,  
we check damage  
to our house or building.  
That can be dangerous.  
The building can collapse.  
We do not step into a house or a building  
until a person from a responsible service  
says that it is safe.

Maybe there is no electricity.

Prepare a flashlight.

Be careful.

Do not use matches.

Do not smoke.

After an earthquake, we boil tap water.

We use bottled water.

After an earthquake, we make sure  
that experts inspect all installations:

- plumbing,
- sewerage,
- gas,
- electricity and
- chimney.

### **After a flood**

A flood damages houses and buildings.  
Water floods the basement and lower floors.  
Water moves furniture and other stuff.  
Water brings mud and debris into the rooms.  
Debris is soil, branches, various objects  
from inside and outside the home.

After a flood, we remove the water.

We remove  
mud and debris from the rooms.

We clean and dry  
rooms and other stuff.

We sanitize the rooms.

We clean our things.

We throw away stuff  
that we cannot clean.

We throw away electrical things  
that do not work any more.

We check food and food products.

We throw away food and food products  
that got wet.

It can take a long time for a wet house  
to be safe to live in again.

### **After a wildfire**

After the wildfire  
we can go back home  
if our house is safe.

The people in charge tell us  
when there is no more danger.

We go home  
when there is no more danger.

We name people in charge  
responsible services.

Responsible services are fire brigade,  
civil protection, and others.

We must follow the instructions  
of the responsible services.

The fire leaves behind the smell of smoke.

When we go home after a fire,

we should open windows  
to remove the smell of smoke.

## How we communicate with people who are deaf or hard of hearing

We communicate with people  
who are deaf or hard of hearing  
with respect.

We are all equals.

We come close to a person  
from the front side.

This way they see us.

We are getting closer slowly.

We get the person's attention.

We wave our hand so they can see us.

We tell them who we are.

We find out how the person communicates.

We tell them about the situation or danger.

We ask:

**Do you need some help?**

We make sure that the room is not noisy.

We make sure the room is bright.

If there is no electricity,  
we use a flashlight.

It is important  
that the person who is deaf or hard of hearing  
sees us well.

It is important  
that the person sees our lips and face.

We speak clearly and slowly.

We speak in short sentences.

We check if the other person understands us.

If the other person does not understand us, we:

- repeat the words or
- say it in another way.

When we communicate, we:

- point to an object or direction,
- nod or shake head,
- pick up the phone and write a message,
- take a paper and pen and write down what we want to say.

A sign language interpreter can help.

If you have an interpreter,

look at the person you are talking to.

Do not look at the interpreter.

This is the best way to see  
how the person is feeling.

And now some advice for the rescuers.

If the rescuers notice a person in the ruins,

who is not answering back,

consider this:

The person may be deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind.

People who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or

deafblind have a right

to accessible information.

They might use:

- a hearing aid or hearing implant,
- sign language,
- lip-reading,
- writing on paper or a phone.

People who are deafblind

cannot hear or see.

They might use sign language for the deafblind.

Sign language for the deafblind  
is conversation with movements or touches.  
We make gestures and signs with our hands.  
We make the signs with touch,  
on the person's body.  
For example, on the hands or on the back.

## Emergency call 112

112 is a special phone number, free of charge.  
We call 112 if we need:

- emergency medical assistance,
- help from a fire brigade,
- help from other emergency services,
- police help.



We can call 112 at any time.  
We can call 112 in all countries of the European Union.

When we call 112, we stay calm.  
We tell the operator:

- who is calling,
- what happened,
- where did it happen,
- when did it happen,
- how many people are hurt,
- in what way they are hurt,
- what is the situation like at the scene,
- what kind of help we need.

### **Important**

People who are  
deaf or hard-of-hearing  
can send a text message to 112.

Text message is SMS.

In the message, we explain what happened.

The operator will text back.

We can call 112 from a landline phone.

We can call 112 from our mobile phone.

We can call 112 for free.

We can even call if we have no phone signal.

The conversations with the operator

and our information

will be saved for 6 months.

If we make a joke call,

we get a fine.

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**SEE ME**  
*Safe and Equal in EMERgencies*



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