



How to develop a family reunion plan:

Your reunion plan will have two basic parts: a reunion plan for when you are all at home or in the neighborhood and a reunion plan for when you are not in the same area and can't get in contact with each other using standard communication methods like phones. The most common reason you will use your reunion plan when you are all at home or in the neighborhood is for fire.

Fire Evacuation Plan:

Most house fires are preventable and house fires are far more common than natural disasters. Fires are also the leading danger following an earthquake. For these reasons, it's extremely important that you do everything you can to reduce your risk of home fires by eliminating hazards ahead of time and remembering never to use candles for light in a power outage or after an earthquake.

Preventing fires after a disaster is especially important since firefighters will be overwhelmed and not be able to respond to individual home fires as they normally do.

You can improve your chances of surviving a house fire by making and practicing a fire escape plan that includes a meeting place outside your home. Click the link below for expert advice from the Seattle Fire Department on fire evacuation planning and home fire prevention:

<http://www.seattle.gov/fire/pubEd/homesafety/fireEscapePlan.htm>

Disaster Reunion Plan:

Establish a plan for reuniting with your family if you are not at home and can't contact each other. This might be a nearby church or your children's school or a friend or relative who lives in a central location between home and work. Ask yourself "if I can't get all the way home, where could I go?"

Teach and Practice your Plan:

Plans are great, but they will only work if everyone knows the plan and understands the plan. The only way to truly know if the plan will work is to practice your plan at least once a year.

Complete the following tasks within the next three days or sooner!

- Our home meeting place is: _____
- Our reunion place if we can't get home: _____
- Date you talked to your family about the plan: _____
- Date for practice fire drill: _____

The Seattle Office of Emergency Management has a brochure on developing a family disaster plan available for you to share with your family. Call 206-233-5076 to have copies mailed to you or click here to download your own copy:

[Red Cross Family Plan Brochure \(PDF\)](#)