



STUDENT TOOLS FOR EMERGENCY PLANNING (STEP)

Student Tools For Emergency Planning (STEP)

Student Tools for Emergency Planning, or STEP, is a classroom-based emergency preparedness curriculum for fourth and fifth graders designed in an easy, ready-to-teach format. Students will learn about disasters, emergencies, and hazards, and how to create a disaster supply kit and family emergency communication plan.

STEP lesson materials include:

- Instructor guide
- [STEP It Up with the Disaster Dodgers video series](#)
- Classroom activities
- Student handouts and homework assignments
- Suggestions for how to involve family members and the larger community

Structure

LESSON	VIDEO	TIME
Base Lesson		
Introduction to Emergency Planning —teaches children the difference between a disaster, an emergency, and a hazard; what types of emergencies to prepare for; and the protective actions to take.	Video 1: Introduction to Emergency Planning	30 minutes
Family Communication Plan and Emergency Kit —teaches children about family emergency communication plans and disaster supply kits.	Video 2: Family Communication Plan and Emergency Kit	30 minutes
OPTIONAL HAZARD UNITS AND SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS		
Fire Emergencies —teaches children about how to stay safe and evacuate if a fire occurs.	Video 3: Fire Emergencies	30 minutes

LESSON	VIDEO	TIME
Base Lesson		
Severe Weather —teaches children what to do during different types of severe weather, such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and extreme heat or cold, and how they can prepare before severe weather occurs.	Video 4: Severe Weather	30 minutes
Earthquakes —teaches children what to do during an earthquake and how they can prepare before an earthquake happens.	Video 5: Earthquakes	30 minutes
Supplemental Lessons —Various emergency preparedness topics are presented through lessons in geography, science, English, art, and mathematics.		10 hours

Get STEP Materials

To download the STEP curriculum, visit [fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/110946](https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/110946). Watch the videos on [FEMA's YouTube channel](#). The STEP curriculum and videos are also available for free from the FEMA Publications Warehouse. For more information, email fema-youth-preparedness@fema.dhs.gov. Be ready to provide your contact information and the number of materials you are requesting.

Want To Know More About Disasters and Emergency Preparedness Before You Begin?

FEMA provides information on different types of disasters and emergencies; maps that identify the locations of historic disaster activity; and what to do before, during, and after an incident on their website at [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

About the Development of STEP

Staff in FEMA Region I (which serves the New England area); the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency; and educators in North Providence, RI, developed STEP. The program was piloted in February 2008.

To support the continued growth and national distribution of STEP, FEMA assembled a working group of subject matter experts in youth disaster preparedness to review and update the curriculum. The revised STEP program is based on years of promising practices and lessons learned in youth disaster preparedness education.