



The Ramirez family looks at their home before they leave not knowing if they will come back to the same house, or if the storm will damage it.



As disasters can strike quickly and without warning, you and your family may be forced to evacuate your neighborhood or you may be confined to your home. What would you do if basic services — such as water, gas, electricity and telephones — were cut off? By having a family plan, you will have a greater chance of surviving disasters. The Ramirez family hopes you will take time today to prepare your own plan for what might come tomorrow.



In Collaboration with the Florida Division of Emergency Management



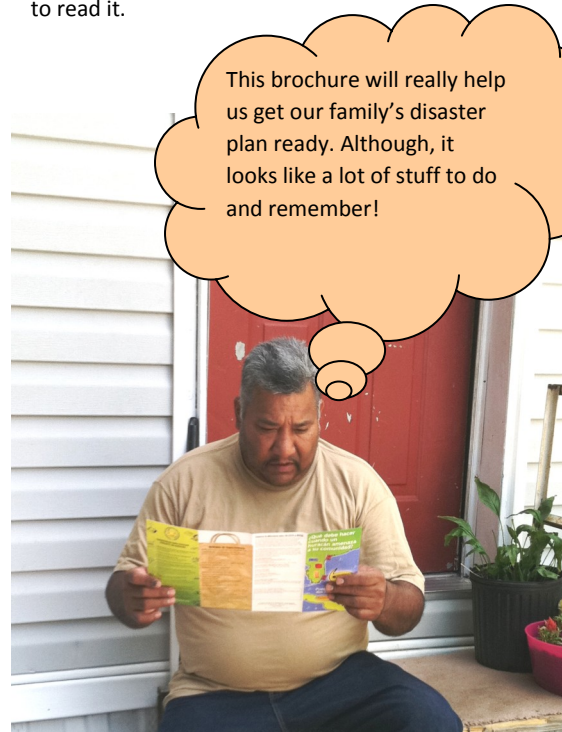
# Fotonovela Preparing for Disasters

On a bright Sunday morning, the Ramirez family is enjoying their day at home after a busy week.



Enrique, the father, had been given a preparedness brochure a month ago, and he is now taking the time to read it.

This brochure will really help us get our family's disaster plan ready. Although, it looks like a lot of stuff to do and remember!



Mia and Ana decide to come outside to enjoy the sunny weather, and find their father, Enrique, on the front steps.

It's a disaster preparedness brochure. I am checking if we have everything ready to go in case a storm or hurricane comes into town.

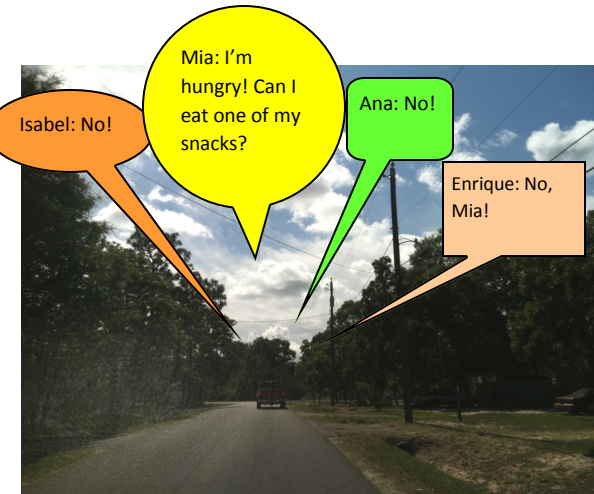
Daddy, what are you reading?



Enrique asks the girls to come in the house so that they can all review the brochure together.

Isabel, this brochure will help us plan what to do in case of an emergency. We need to have a plan for staying at home as well as leaving our home to a safer place. We need to review it to make sure we have everything ready!

Daddy, I've read this before. Mrs. Smith has some of these at school. We read through them. She told us we needed to always be prepared!



Isabel: No!

Mia: I'm hungry! Can I eat one of my snacks?

Ana: No!

Enrique: No, Mia!

The Ramirez family is on their way to safety because they prepared and planned for an emergency!



Daddy, you don't remember when we told you we needed to go to the churches to ask if they would be setting up shelters in case of an emergency? This is where Isabel and I read that! You said we needed to get ready!

Ana is right Daddy! You said we needed to read it as a family. It has a supply list and steps to take to be prepared for a disaster.



**A month earlier .....**

Ana read that we need to know where the shelters are, and to prepare to evacuate or stay home. That's why we asked if you could take us to see about the churches.

The brochure said we need supplies such as food and water for 3 to 7 days per person, and also batteries and a radio. We made a list of groceries to buy, and personal items we need. Also, we need to put Mia's asthma medicines in the kit, too, Daddy. We wouldn't want her to have an attack and not have her medicine.



I see you girls have been reading that brochure I brought home. I haven't had time to read it, so I don't know what I need to do to prepare for a disaster. You tell me what you need me to do, ok?



The church is closed. There's a sign on the door! What does it say?

If this church is not going to serve as a shelter, like that sign says, we need to find out where we would go if we need to evacuate.



I think we need to check on our neighbors too. Daddy, can we go visit them? Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez work all day, but they have kids and pets. Maybe Julia and Oscar are home and we can play a bit with them.



No one is home. Do you think they know about preparing for disasters and how to deal with their pets? If they leave them out while they work, they may not have a plan for them when a disaster strikes.

Daddy, it seems like a lot of stuff, but we are a family of 5 counting mom. She needs our help since she can't do this because she's working. Most of the stuff we have around the house anyway, so it shouldn't be too hard to gather.

**Back to Sunday morning - the family continues to review the checklist.**



Girls, this checklist is long! Are you sure we need all of these things? It seems like a lot of stuff that we may not use if nothing happens.

**Later that Sunday, the sky was brewing up a storm ...**



Daddy, Isabel just heard on the radio that there is a tornado coming this way. She said that the news person said that if we live in a mobile home we need to evacuate.

Thank you Mia. I just read about evacuations in the brochure. We do need to evacuate and quickly!



Girls, go on to the truck. I will lock up the house and put our important papers in this plastic bag. We don't have a safe, but at least our papers will be protected in case they get wet.

You all filled your backpacks with clothes, a tooth brush and your games and toys, right? I put pillows and blankets in the car along with some bottled water and food. Once we leave, we can't come back until they say it's safe. We don't know how long that will be, but we are prepared, right?



I'm scared! What's going to happen to mom?

How is she going to evacuate if she didn't have time to pack her things?

Mom called to check on us and her boss told her it was OK for her to leave work, so we are going to pick her up.



And don't worry Isabel. Mommy and Daddy have their backpacks ready. Remember that preparing for a disaster is a team effort, and we are a team!