



# What To Do After a Disaster

# Immediate Steps

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1. Check on family members, pets, office agents, office location and other community agents.
2. Recovering from Disaster  
[https://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/recovering\\_from\\_disaster.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/recovering_from_disaster.pdf)
3. Check on your clients.
4. Contact your insurance company/broker as soon as possible to file a claim.
5. Search for open emergency shelters:
  - Text **SHELTER** and the zip code of your location to **4FEMA** (43362)  
Example: SHELTER 01234. (Standard text message rates apply.)
  - FEMA Mobile App  
<https://www.fema.gov/about/news-multimedia/mobile-app-text-messages>
  - Shelters and disaster recovery centers  
<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/information/immediate-needs/emergency-shelter>
6. Take pictures and video of the damage to your home/property and surrounding area and save all your receipts for post-damage repair and clean up.
7. Contact remediation companies and obtain multiple quotes. Do not sign any contracts until you've met with your insurance company.
8. Follow the "FEMA Checklist of Questions to Ask Your General Contractor" guide.  
[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/building\\_codes\\_toolkit-checklist\\_general\\_contractor.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/building_codes_toolkit-checklist_general_contractor.pdf)
9. Upon completion, and prior to last payment to any contractors, request a signature on a Full Lien release form.
10. If appropriate, contact your Broker/Owner who can work with Corporate regarding an Amazon wish list or a GoFundMe.com.
11. When working with clients who have properties affected by a natural disaster, ask them if they have or suggest they check with their attorney and/or insurance company prior to listing/selling the damaged/affected property to ensure a sale won't affect any open claims or possible lawsuits.

## For Disaster Specific Resources

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- Earthquakes  
<https://www.ready.gov/earthquakes/>
- Floods  
<https://www.ready.gov/floods/>
- Home Fires  
<https://www.ready.gov/home-fires/>
- Hurricanes  
<https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes/>
- Tornadoes  
<https://www.ready.gov/tornadoes/>
- Wildfires  
<https://www.ready.gov/wildfires/>
- Other Disasters  
<https://www.ready.gov/recovering-disaster/>

## Resources

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- Federal assistance  
<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>
- Assistance after a disaster  
<https://www.fema.gov/disasters>
- Picking up the pieces  
[https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF\\_s/Preparedness\\_Disaster\\_Recovery/General\\_Preparedness\\_Recovery/Financial/picking-up-the-pieces-A5076.pdf](https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/Preparedness_Disaster_Recovery/General_Preparedness_Recovery/Financial/picking-up-the-pieces-A5076.pdf)
- What to do after a disaster  
<https://www.unitedway.org/my-smart-money/immediate-needs/ive-experienced-a-natural-disaster/what-to-do-after-a-disaster#>