

The Household Resilience Review

15 questions every family with a complex home should be able to answer.

WHY THIS REVIEW MATTERS

A household can function beautifully while still depending on single points of failure: one person, one utility, one contractor, one account, one communications method or one backup system.

A “no,” “not sure,” or “only one person knows” is not a failure. It is a useful place to strengthen preparedness, redundancy or family knowledge before a disruption tests it.

01 HOME & PROPERTY

01 CRITICAL CONTROLS

Could another capable person locate and safely use the main electrical, water, heating, generator and other critical controls - including a manual path if an app or automation is unavailable?

02 BACKUP POWER & HEAT

Do you know what backup power actually supports, realistic fuel/runtime, what still requires manual action, and what the household would do if the generator or primary heat failed?

03 WATER & SANITATION

If normal water service or a private well stopped working, does the household know what would be affected, how long it could function, and what water/sanitation backup exists?

04 SECURITY & ACCESS

If power, internet or cloud services were unavailable, could the household still secure and access the property, operate gates/locks, and understand alarms or cameras?

02 FAMILY READINESS

05 KEY PERSON UNAVAILABLE

If the person who normally handles the home were unavailable for a week, what would become difficult first - and who has the authority and knowledge to step in?

06 CHILDREN, CAREGIVERS & PETS

Are emergency contacts, responsibilities, medical needs, pickup/reunification arrangements and practical pet needs clear enough for the right people to follow?

07 EVACUATION & REUNIFICATION

Does the family have realistic evacuation, meeting and communications plans for a fire, utility problem or wider disruption - including what changes when someone is away?

08 EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Can family members or caregivers quickly find the medical, emergency and household information they would actually need under pressure?

03 PREPAREDNESS & COMMUNICATIONS

09 MULTI-DAY OUTAGE

If utility power were unavailable for several days, which household functions would continue - and which would fail first?

10 FOOD, WATER & SUPPLIES

Does the household have a realistic amount of potable water, food, medications, sanitation supplies, lighting, charging and fuel for the disruption period it wants to handle?

11 COMMUNICATIONS FALLBACK

If cellular service or internet connectivity were unavailable, how would family members communicate, receive important information and coordinate with others?

12 OUTSIDE HELP IS DELAYED

If weather, roads, demand or a regional event delayed normal vendors or public services, what can the household safely handle on its own and when should it change plans?

04 INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

13 ACCOUNT RECOVERY

Could the family recover important accounts if the primary phone, device or account holder were unavailable?

14 BACKUPS & CRITICAL RECORDS

Are important household records and digital data backed up in a way that can actually be recovered, with appropriate independent/offline copies where the consequence justifies it?

15 CONNECTED-SYSTEM FALLBACK

For critical systems that rely on apps, cloud services, batteries, subscriptions or remote accounts, is there a workable manual/offline fallback and does someone know how to use it?

Turn questions into capability.

A checklist identifies questions. Capability comes from fixing and practicing the answers. Start with the consequences that matter most to your family, then build sensible layers around them.

ASSESS

Understand the real family, home, property and dependencies.

STRENGTHEN

Improve safety, systems, security and preparedness where the risk justifies it.

BACK UP

Add practical redundancy and manual/offline fallbacks around critical capabilities.

TRAIN

Make sure the right people know the first actions and how to use important systems.

VALIDATE

Test alerts, backup assumptions, communications and procedures while conditions are normal.

REVIEW

Households change. Update supplies, contacts, systems and plans periodically.

TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED, NOT TECHNOLOGY-DEPENDENT

Normal operation → Backup → Manual/offline fallback → Who knows how to use it

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