

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT DISASTER

Preparing for any given disaster is challenging enough, let alone a web of co-occurring events. While the task may seem daunting, together we can take action and make informed decisions for a better future.

WHAT CAN I DO?

On an individual level, we can prepare for disasters. Some actions that you can take include:

- Understand extreme weather events common to your area and research how you can best prepare for them.
- Create a household emergency plan and establish an emergency meeting location if communication systems fail. Don't forget to practice this plan!
- Make an emergency kit that includes necessities, medications, and first aid and perform routine updates to ensure supplies are not expired. What will you need? Your family? Your pets?
- Research the emergency plans for your local neighborhood, work, or school for kids.
- Share resources with your community.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

As you've seen in this exhibit, California disasters continue to increase in frequency and intensity because of climate change. Additionally, epidemics have magnified the impacts of natural disasters. But, we can still make choices to create a better future. **How do you think our local, state, or federal representatives could promote a better future for us all? How can we advocate for these changes?**

One place to start is by contacting your representatives to voice your concerns and encourage them to pursue initiatives that fight climate change and minimize its negative impacts. These can include:

- Creating a universal healthcare system
- Investing in renewable energy and transitioning away from fossil fuels
- Decarbonizing the electricity sector
- Establishing moratoriums on evictions during emergencies and on utility shut-offs during heat waves
- Providing affordable housing
- Identifying underserved communities and providing accessible preparedness resources