

# FLASH

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Protect your family and your home from severe weather and natural disasters with Blueprint for Safety™ – the most comprehensive set of disaster-resistant building techniques available today. Blueprint for Safety™ offers “code-plus” guidelines for protecting both new and existing homes against flooding, wildfire, and high winds.

## FLOOD

- Avoid costly damage by consulting a Flood Insurance Rate Map to determine risks *before* you build a new home. Contact local building officials for help in determining Base Flood Elevation.
- If your existing home is in a flood zone, consider raising the structure so the lowest floor is above flood level.
- “Floodproofing,” levees and floodwalls are other flood prevention techniques to consider.

## WILDFIRE

- Homes in heavily wooded, rural areas are at greater risk for damage due to wildfire.
- Maintain a dependable water source.
- Build with fire-resistant building materials.
- Create a defensible space around your home by removing firewood, trimming back trees and brush, and removing dry vegetation, such as grass and leaves, within 30 feet of the residence.

## WIND

- In the event of a hurricane or tornado, protect all windows, doors, garage doors, and gable end vents with tested and approved coverings such as shutters or impact-resistant glass.
- Reinforce your home’s roof, wall and foundation with hurricane straps, clips, and bolts.
- When installing a new roof, use a secondary water barrier and impact-resistant roof coverings.
- If a new roof is years away, reinforce the underside of the roof with construction adhesive that is APA approved. Look for AFG-01 rating.

Blueprint for Safety™ materials and technical advice for homeowners and homebuilders are available on CD-ROM, on the Web at [www.blueprintforsafety.org](http://www.blueprintforsafety.org), via e-mail at [flash@flash.org](mailto:flash@flash.org) or by calling our toll-free help desk at **(877) 221-SAFE**.