

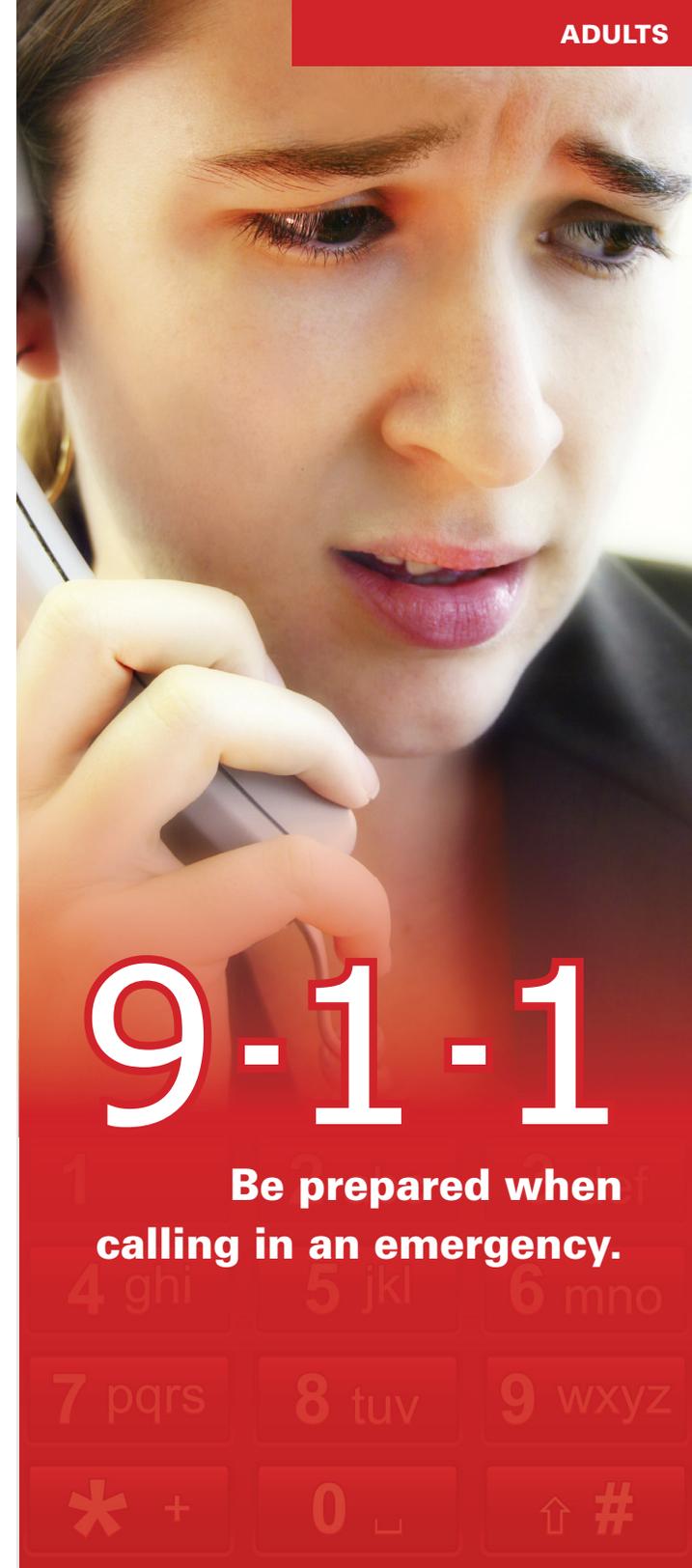
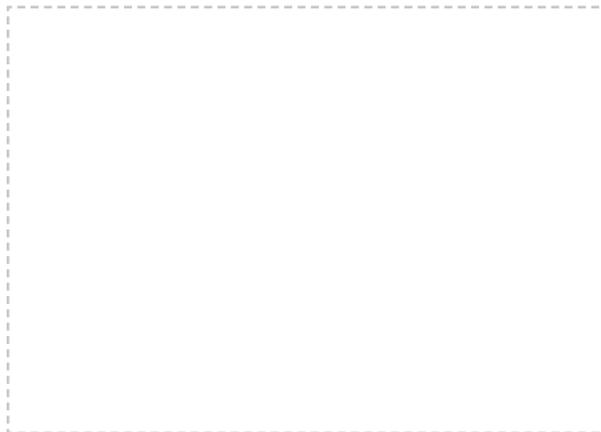
Now it's time to share your 9-1-1 knowledge with your children. Helping them know the basic rules about when and how to call 9-1-1 could save a life. You never know, the life they save could be your own.



The following tips will help you prepare your children in case they need to call 9-1-1.

1. Teach your children to dial "nine-one-one." Do not use the term "nine-eleven" since there is no eleven on the telephone keypad.
2. Explain the purpose of 9-1-1 and use examples to teach them when they should call 9-1-1. Tell your children scenarios that are more likely to occur in your home or with friends or relatives. For example, grandma has a heart condition and dad is allergic to bee stings.
3. Make sure your children know their address and phone number. Teach through repetition or use a creative song or rhyme.
4. Teach your children their full names and the full names of their parents.
5. Instruct your children to look at their surroundings when they are not at home and don't know the address. Looking at street signs, an address on a piece of mail, and street numbers on a building, house, or curb can be helpful.

6. Always have at least one phone in the home that your children can access.
7. Make sure they know how to dial 9-1-1 using a landline and a cell phone since both are common. Demonstrate how to hold a phone and speak clearly so they will be understood.
8. Instruct your children to go to a trusted neighbor's house before calling 9-1-1 in the event of a dangerous situation at home like a burglary or fire.
9. Let your children know that they can trust the calltaker and that it's OK to answer ALL of the questions, providing as much information as possible.
10. Make sure your children know to follow the instructions they are given.
11. Tell your children to stay on the line and keep talking to the calltaker until they are told to hang up.
12. Make sure your children know what to do if they accidentally call 9-1-1. They should tell the calltaker it was an accident and there is no emergency. Otherwise emergency help may be unnecessarily sent to check on the disconnected call.
13. Instruct your children to call only when there is an actual emergency. 9-1-1 is not a toy. Prank calls are illegal in most states and waste valuable time and resources but more importantly, prank calls can mean a delayed response for someone experiencing a true emergency.
14. Take the battery out of a phone before giving it to your children to play with. Otherwise, you are still able to dial 9-1-1 and reach a calltaker even when the phone's service has been disconnected.



# 9-1-1

Be prepared when calling in an emergency.





# 9-1-1

calltakers are trained, certified professionals **who can help you** during an emergency, but there are also a few simple things you can do to **help the calltaker help you**.

Most importantly, be patient, **stay calm**, and **speak clearly** throughout the call. Be ready to **provide the location** of the emergency, the **phone number** you're calling from, and a brief description of what happened. **Pay attention to the calltaker's questions** and respond clearly, **answering all questions**, no matter how necessary they may or may not seem to you. Do not object to answering any of their questions. **9-1-1 calltakers are trained to ask the questions necessary to determine the type of response for your particular emergency.** Your answers to all of their questions **provide vital information responders need**.

Remember, in most cases, **help is already on the way** as the calltaker continues to ask you questions and gather information. Calltakers **pass your important information to responders en route to help them prepare** for your emergency. The 9-1-1 calltaker may also give you **immediate lifesaving instructions** over the phone until help arrives. **Follow these instructions carefully and do not hang up the phone** until the calltaker instructs you to do so.



## DO:

**These tips will help you be even more prepared in case you need to make an emergency call to 9-1-1.**

1. **Use a landline phone to call 9-1-1, if possible**, because cell phone calls do not always provide 9-1-1 with an address or phone number. **However, do not delay calling** in an effort to find a landline phone.
2. If calling from a cell phone, **study your surroundings**. The calltaker might need more **specific information**, including landmarks and cross streets, **for responders to locate you and the emergency**.
3. **Call 9-1-1 right away** if you or someone else is facing a situation that may pose an immediate **risk to health, life, property, or the environment**.
4. Remember that 9-1-1 is a **24-hour service** and all **calls are free**. Sometimes it takes time to route the call to the correct answering point so **stay on the line**. If you become disconnected, call back.

5. **Be respectful** of your 9-1-1 calltaker. These *first, first responders are there to help you*.
6. If you **call 9-1-1 by mistake stay on the line**. When the call is answered, tell the calltaker that the call was made **accidentally** and **there is no emergency**. Otherwise **emergency help may be sent unnecessarily** to check on the disconnected call.
7. **Post your phone number and address** by the telephone or on the refrigerator. It is **not uncommon to forget your address or phone number during an emergency situation**, especially if you have recently moved. A child making a call to 9-1-1 might not remember this information unless it's written down. **Emergency responders cannot help you if they cannot find you**.
8. Put your house/apartment/condo number on your front, outside wall or curb to aid responders.
9. **Compile critical information** and put the information in a **safe place** known to other family members or close friends. Include an updated record of the following information for everyone living in your household: **name, phone numbers, personal contacts' phone numbers, doctors' phone numbers, allergies, medications, and blood type**.
10. **Provide answers** in a controlled tone of voice. Try not to lose your composure. **The calltaker understands** any fears you may be feeling and will do his or her best to **help you stay calm**.
11. If you have **trouble answering the calltaker's questions** or following his or her instructions, **hand the phone to someone else** at the scene, if possible.
12. **Remain on the line** until the calltaker says it is OK for you to end the call.

**9-1-1 calltakers are trained to ask the questions necessary for your particular emergency. Your answers to ALL of their questions will help them quickly provide the best possible response for your situation.**