



**The Pillowcase Project is a free emergency preparedness program developed by the American Red Cross for 3rd-5th grade youth. It is designed to increase children's awareness and understanding of natural hazards and empower them to take preparedness actions.**

- The program was originally created in New Orleans, inspired by university students who carried their belongings in pillowcases during Hurricane Katrina evacuations.
- Students receive a pillowcase to decorate and use as a personal emergency supplies kit. Students are encouraged to work with the adults at home to create a household emergency plan and supplies kit.
- The curriculum meets many of the Common Core State Standards for grades 3-5.
- The Pillowcase Project reached over 445,000 youth during a three year pilot between 2013 and 2015, thanks to funding from Disney.
- Red Cross trained staff and volunteers present the program in communities nationwide.

**Interactive lessons focus on home fire prevention and safety and other potential hazards such as tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes. Lessons are based on what might occur in the local community.**

- The curriculum is structured by a Learn, Practice, Share framework.
- Students learn about the science of a locally relevant hazard and how to best prepare for it. They practice what to do if a disaster occurs and how to cope with related fear and stress. Then they share the information and skills they have learned with their family and friends so everyone in the household knows what to do.
- All students who participate in The Pillowcase Project learn to prevent and stay safe in the event of a home fire and are encouraged to make a home fire escape plan and practice a home fire drill at home.

**In 2014, the Red Cross launched Monster Guard: Prepare for Emergencies, a mobile game based on The Pillowcase Project curriculum.**

- Users earn points and medals as they role-play as different monsters to identify household hazards, locate safe spaces, and practice protective actions related to different natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, and thunderstorms.
- The game can be downloaded on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or by texting "MONSTER" TO 90999.
- Monster Guard: Prepare for Emergencies is sponsored by Disney.

**For more information about The Pillowcase Project and how your school, after-school program or community group can participate, contact: Susan Morris at [susan.morris@redcross.org](mailto:susan.morris@redcross.org) or Patricia Fry at [pat.fry2@redcross.org](mailto:pat.fry2@redcross.org) .**