



Be Informed



Establish an Out-of-State 24-hour Telephone Contact

- Outgoing calls do not overload phone lines, as do incoming calls to a disaster area
- Inform all relatives how to call the phone contact before a disaster occurs. Individual location and status should be requested.
- Take color pictures of every room plus pictures of valuables. Send one copy of legal pictures and one copy of pictures to an out-of-state contact.

Plan how your family will stay in contact if separated by disaster

Choose a minimum of 2 meeting places:

- A location a safe distance (at least 75 feet) from your home in case of fires.
- A place outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
- An alternate place outside your neighborhood in case access to the first one is blocked.

Other Considerations

- Stock supplies to last up to a week for each family member and pet
- Be prepared to relocate to a shelter during prolonged power outage
- Have extra cash on hand in case electronic transactions (ATM card, credit card, etc.) cannot be processed
- Discuss with your family the steps to take during a disaster

Meet with Neighbors

- Plan how the neighborhood could work together after a disaster. Know your neighbors' skills (medical, technical)
- Consider how to help neighbors with special needs, such as elderly or disabled persons
- Make plans for children whose parents can't get home

Contact your local emergency management office

- Find out which disasters are most likely to happen in your community
- Ask how you would be notified

Evacuation Routes

When community evacuations are deemed necessary, local officials may notify you using one or more of the following:

- the Emergency Notification System
- the National Weather Radio network
- outdoor warning sirens
- the Emergency Alert System

Note: Local media may also provide valuable information regarding the evacuation process.

Be prepared to leave at a moment's notice in an emergency

Planning for Evacuation

Have enough water, food, clothing, and emergency supplies to last 3 to 5 days.

Many disasters allow no time for people to gather even the most basic necessities. By taking the time now to prepare, you will be better off during an actual evacuation.

Assemble a disaster/evacuation kit. Include basic survival items such as a radio, flashlight, extra batteries, food, water, clothing, and all medications.

- Communicate with everyone in your household and plan where you would go if you were told to evacuate.
- If everyone in your household is not at home when an evacuation is announced, make sure everyone knows where to meet outside of the evacuation area.
- Have an alternate evacuation route. During certain types of emergencies, some roads might be impassable.
- Know another way to get to safety from your house.
- Make arrangements ahead of time with relatives and friends you may be able to stay with during an evacuation.

Where to Go During an Evacuation

If an evacuation is necessary, put your evacuation plan into action. Make sure everyone in your household is accounted for, gather your evacuation kit, and secure your property.

In some instances, shelters are made available. Pay attention to local authorities and news media to see if such a shelter is available. If you have other options for shelter available to you, make use of them instead of a mass care shelter.