



EVACUATION PLANNING

There are many types of emergencies that can result in first responders requiring you and your family to evacuate your home. In some cases you may be provided with some advance notice and a little time to prepare, while other situations might call for an immediate evacuation. Planning is vital to ensuring that you can evacuate quickly and safely, no matter the circumstance.

Before an Evacuation

- Plan how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate.
- Identify several places you could go in an emergency such as a friend's home in another town or a hotel. Choose destinations in different directions so that you have options during an emergency.
- If needed, identify a place to stay that will accept your pets. Most public shelters allow only service animals.
- Be familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
- Always follow the instructions of local officials. Most evacuations allow for the use of a vehicle but depending on the type of disaster, an evacuation route could be on foot.
- Come up with a family/household plan to stay in touch in case you become separated. Have a meeting place and plan for it to change depending on the circumstance.
- Assemble supplies that are ready for evacuation. Prepare a "go-bag" you can carry when you evacuate on foot or by public transportation. Include supplies for traveling longer distances if you have a car.
- If you have a car:
 - Keep a half tank of gas in your car at all times in case of an unexpected need to evacuate. Keep a full tank of gas if an evacuation seems likely. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies or unable to pump gas during power outages. Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.
 - Make sure you have a portable emergency kit in the car.
- If you do not have a car, plan how you would get transportation help, if needed.





During an Evacuation

- Listen to a battery-powered radio, watch for emergency notifications, and follow local evacuation orders.
- Take your emergency supply kit and leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather, or caught in traffic congestion.
- Take your pets with you but understand that only service animals are allowed in human public shelters. During large scale incidents, small and large animal shelters will be established.
- If time allows:
 - Secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows.
 - Unplug electrical equipment such as radios, televisions, and small appliances. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding. If there is damage to your home and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas, and electricity before leaving.
 - Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
 - Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provide some protection such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and a hat.
 - Check with neighbors who may need a ride.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts, they may be blocked.
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas.

After an Evacuation

If you are evacuated, check with local officials both where you're staying and back home before you travel.

- If you are returning to disaster-affected areas after significant events, prepare for disruptions to daily activities and remember that returning home before storm debris is cleared is dangerous.
- Charge devices and consider getting back-up batteries in case power outages continue.
- Fill up your gas tank and consider downloading a fuel app to check for outages along your route.
- Bring supplies such as water and non-perishable food for the car ride.
- Avoid downed power or utility lines, they may be live with deadly voltage. Stay away and report them immediately to your power or utility company or call 911 in an emergency.
- Only use generators outside and away from your home and NEVER run a generator inside a home or garage, or connect it to your home's electrical system.

For more tips on evacuation preparedness, visit [ready.gov/Evacuation](https://www.ready.gov/Evacuation).