

Evacuation Plan

(Shelter-in-Place in an Emergency)

Local government officials, not the Red Cross, issue evacuation orders when disaster threatens. Listen to local radio and television reports when disaster threatens. If local officials ask you to leave, do so immediately.

PLAN AHEAD

If you have only moments before leaving, grab these things and go:

- € Medical supplies: prescription medications and dentures
- € Disaster supplies: flashlight, batteries, radio, first aid kit, bottled water
- € Clothing and bedding: a change of clothes and a sleeping bag or bedroll and pillow for each household member
- € Car keys and keys to the place you may be going (friend or relative's home)

If local officials haven't advised an immediate evacuation:

If there's a chance the weather may get worse or flooding may occur, take steps now to protect your home and belongings. Do this only if local officials have not asked you to leave.

PROTECT YOUR HOME

If high winds are expected, cover the outside of all windows of your home. Use shutters that are rated to provide protection from windblown debris, or fit plywood coverings over all windows. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking. All tape does is prevent windows from shattering. Using tape on windows is not recommended.

If flooding is expected, consider using sand bags to keep water away from your home.

- € It takes two people about one hour to fill and place 100 sandbags, giving you a wall one foot high and 20 feet long.
- € Make sure you have enough sand, burlap or plastic bags, shovels, strong helpers and time to place them properly.

Remember. Houses do not explode due to air pressure differences. Damage happens when wind gets inside a home through a broken window, door or damaged roof.

UTILITIES

Turn off electricity and water. Turn off electricity at the main fuse or breaker, and turn off water at the main valve.

Leave natural gas on.

- € Unless local officials advise otherwise, leave natural gas on because you will need it for heating and cooking when you return home.
- € If you turn gas off, a licensed professional is required to turn it back on, and it may take weeks for a professional to respond.

Turn off propane gas service. Propane tanks often become dislodged in disasters.

GATHER ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES AND PAPERS

You will need the following supplies when you leave your home. Put them all together in a duffle bag or other large container in advance.

- Flashlight with plenty of extra batteries
- Batter-powered radio with extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Prescription medications in their original bottle, plus copies of the prescriptions
- Eyeglasses with a copy of the prescription
- Water (at least one gallon per person is recommended; more is better)
- Foods that do not require refrigeration or cooking
- Items that infants and elderly household members may require
- Medical equipment and devices
- Change of clothes for each household member
- Sleeping bag or bedroll and pillow for each household member
- Checkbook, cash and credit cards
- Map of the area

Important papers to take with you:

- Driver's license and personal identification
- Social Security Card
- Proof of residence (deed or lease)
- Insurance policies
- Birth and marriage certificates
- Stocks, bonds and other negotiable certificates
- Wills, deeds and copies of recent tax returns

PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES

Move objects that may get damaged by wind or water to safer areas of your home. Move television sets, computers, stereo and electronic equipment, easily moveable appliances like a microwave oven to higher levels of your home and away from windows. Wrap them in sheets, blankets or burlap.

Make a visual or written record of all of your household possessions. Record model and serial numbers.

This list could help you prove the value of what you owned if those possessions are damaged or destroyed, and can assist you to claim deductions on taxes.

Do this for all items in your home, including expensive items such as sofas, chairs, tables, beds, chests, wall units and other furniture too heavy to move.

Store a copy of the record somewhere away from home, such as in a safe deposit box.

If it's possible that your home may be significantly damaged by impending disaster, consider storing your household furnishings temporarily elsewhere.