

Escape/Evacuation Plan

Emergency events can occur quickly and without warning. Planning for any emergency requires considering all likely scenarios, including the need to evacuate your home or community. There may be circumstances under which you and your family feel threatened or endangered and you need to leave your home. Additionally, sometimes community evacuations become necessary. If a community evacuation becomes necessary, local officials will provide information to the public through the media on when you need to evacuate, where to go and what routes to take.



The amount of time you have to leave will depend on the hazard. If the event is a weather condition, such as slow rising flood waters that can be monitored, you might have a day or two to get ready. However, many disasters, such as a house fire, allow no time for people to gather even the most basic necessities, which is why planning ahead is essential.

Create Your Plan

- Draw a floor plan or map of your home being sure to show all doors and windows.
- Mark two ways out of each room.
- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood.
- When evacuating remember to bring your Disaster Supplies Kit.
- If you have a car, keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case you need to evacuate.
- Become familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
- If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if you have to.
- Lock the door behind you.
- Remember to bring along the “P’s” – people, pets, pills and purse.
- Take your pets with you, but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters. Plan on how you will care for your pets in an emergency.
- Practice it! Drive your planned evacuation routes and alternate routes. Conduct fire drills and practice evacuating at home at least twice a year.

