



family evacuation plan

Habitat Ready: Disaster preparedness for homeowners

An evacuation is the immediate and urgent movement away from a threat or hazard. Evacuations are more common than people realize and may be optional or mandatory. Disasters often force people to leave their homes, neighborhoods, cities and sometimes even states on short notice. Because you might not have much time to evacuate when a disaster strikes, it is important to have a plan in place to get your family out of danger quickly and efficiently. The family evacuation plan should include the following.

BEFORE an evacuation

1. Determine what threats could cause you to evacuate (See [Disaster Preparedness Series: Hazards](#)).
2. Make sure your disaster supply kit is stocked (See [Disaster Preparedness Series: Disaster Supply Kit](#)).
3. Have a family communications plan in place in case you get separated during the evacuation (See [Disaster Preparedness Series: Family Communications Plan](#)).
4. Include your pets in your family evacuation plan (See [Disaster Preparedness Series: Preparing Pets for Disasters](#)).
5. Learn about your community's warning system and how evacuation information will be distributed (text messages, sirens, etc.).
6. Pick a location where your family will meet outside of your home and neighborhood.
7. In case you have to evacuate your city, choose several destinations in different directions so you have options.
8. Identify alternative evacuation routes.
9. Keep at least a half-tank of gas in your car at all times in case you have to evacuate on short notice. If an evacuation seems likely, keep a full tank of gas.
10. If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if you have to. Make arrangements with friends, family members, neighbors or your local government.
11. Have enough cash to pay one week's expenses in case banks and ATMs are not accessible.
12. Hold a family meeting to communicate your plan.

DURING an evacuation

1. Leave early, follow recommended evacuation routes, and stay together if possible.
2. Listen to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio or TV for the latest evacuation information.
3. Be alert for road hazards, such as flooding, washed-out roads and bridges, and downed power lines.
4. Take your disaster supply kit with you (See [Disaster Preparedness Series: Disaster Supply Kit](#)).
5. Take your pets with you (See [Disaster Preparedness Series: Preparing Pets for Disasters](#)).
6. Secure your home, close and lock all doors and windows, and inform your neighbors of your evacuation plans.
7. If you have time, consider doing the following:
 - Inform your out-of-town contact from your family preparedness plan (See [Disaster Preparedness Series: Family Preparedness Plan](#)) where you are going.
 - Unplug electrical equipment but leave freezers and refrigerators on, unless there is a risk of flooding.
 - Check with friends, family members and neighbors who may need assistance.

AFTER an evacuation

1. Continue listening to a NOAA weather radio or TV for the latest evacuation information.
2. Do not return home until authorities declare it is safe.

Evacuation information

Home evacuation information

Address _____
 City and state _____
 Phone number _____
 Number of residents _____
 Number of pets _____
 Number of exits _____
 Number of fire extinguishers _____
 Date smoke detector last tested _____

Transportation arrangements

Type of vehicle _____
 License plate number _____
 Alternate route _____
 Estimated driving time _____
 (approximately four times the normal driving time)
 Transportation arrangements if you do not have access to a vehicle _____

Evacuation locations

Neighborhood location

Address _____
 Phone number _____

Out-of-town location

Address _____
 Phone number _____

Alternate out-of-town location

Address _____
 Phone number _____

Local shelter

Address _____
 Phone number _____

Kennel

Address _____
 Phone number _____

Special needs

Wallet information card

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

Additional phone numbers and information

Family preparedness plan 

Emergency contact name _____

Phone number _____

Out-of-town contact name _____

Phone number _____

Neighborhood meeting place _____

Regional meeting place _____

Medical information _____

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Additional resources

American Red Cross
redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/plan

Federal Emergency Management Agency
ready.gov/evacuating-yourself-and-your-family

In the space provided below, sketch a **floor plan of your home**. Be sure to clearly locate all windows, doors, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. Use the floor plan to identify at least two escape routes from every room in your home.