

## EVACUATION NOTES

[http://www.firewise.org/fw\\_youcanuse/index.htm](http://www.firewise.org/fw_youcanuse/index.htm)

Disasters may give little or no warning. Sometimes people are fortunate enough to have time to prepare and take appropriate actions. Often, however, you will have no time to do anything more than take immediate action to protect yourself and those close to you.

### 11 Points to Preparedness for Evacuation

*"We can FLY in the face of Danger and Emergency if we are prepared. Don't wait till you are being asked to evacuate. Everyone thinks that it could not happen to them. Well it could and it is up to you to make sure you are prepared. Don't wait! DO IT NOW!!" -- FlyLady*

1. **PEOPLE:** Have a plan for getting out of the house and make sure everyone knows it. Have an emergency bag of food and water for your family. Include wholesome snacks and treats for the children: dried fruit, nuts, peanut butter, crackers and granola bars.
2. **PETS:** Keep pet carriers and leashes readily available to lead pets to safety. Also take pet food with you.
3. **PICTURES:** Keep negatives or CDs of pictures in a lock box or at a family member's home. Have picture albums in one place ready to grab and go at a moments notice.
4. **PAPERS:** Have all your important papers in a lock box at a bank and only keep copies at the house. This keeps you from panicking. If you have them at home then put them in a folder that you can easily grab if you have to move fast. Color code it so you can find it!
5. **PRESCRIPTIONS:** Take your medications with you. Don't forget the ones that have to be refrigerated like insulin. Have small ice chest and cold packs readily accessible to pack and go. If you have babies; remember their formula or medications.
6. **PURSES and PETROL:** This is where you keep your identification, credit cards and cash. Keep a stash of cash for emergencies and grab it. You may not be able to use an ATM in the event of a power outage. Make sure your car always has a half a tank of gas.
7. **PROPER CLOTHES and COMFORT ITEMS:** According to the weather conditions; gather up a change of clothes along with outer clothing: coats, rain gear, boots, gloves and hats. If you have babies remember diapers. Remember to grab your children's favorite blanket, stuffed animal or toy. A game or a deck of cards could keep them occupied and calm too.
8. **PLANNER/CALENDAR/CONTROL JOURNAL:** These documents have all the information you will need from phone numbers, insurance numbers and important dates. They are small and filled with things you don't have to try to

- remember.
9. **PERSONAL PROTECTION:** Many of us still have that time of the month. Be sure and grab a box of your preferred protection. It may be hard to find if you have been evacuated. Stress can cause our bodies to do strange things too. So be prepared. Take medication for cramps too.
  10. **PHONES and RADIOS:** Many of us have cell phones now. Always keep them charged up and have a charger in the car or an extra battery. They may not work in the event of power outages, but then they might. Know which local radio station has emergency bulletins. Keep your battery powered radio tuned to that local station and have plenty of batteries for it.
  11. **PATIENCE:** This is one of the most important things to pack. Keep it inside of you so that you have a clear calm head. Having your P's to Preparedness list guiding you will keep you patient. In the event of an evacuation there will be lots of displaced people. Being patient will make things less stressful. Your children need to see you calm and collected. This will help keep them calm too.

**The following is from CERT Training notes and online notes from the Office of Disaster Management.**

### **Get a Kit**

After a disaster, firefighters and other first responders will be on the scene, but they may not be able to reach everyone immediately. To stay safe, every family or individual resident should think first about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air, clothing, shelter and warmth. Create a basic emergency supplies kit that includes water; food; prescription medications; a battery-powered radio and/or a hand-cranked radio, a NOAA weather radio, extra batteries; flashlights with extra batteries; a first aid kit; a whistle to signal for help; dust masks and an extra set of clothes for every family member; moist towelettes; blankets; garbage bags; a wrench or pliers to turn off utilities; a can opener; and local maps. The items should be stored in a portable container and kept as close to an exit door as possible.

### **A. Emergency Supplies Kit**

1. An emergency supplies kit provides essential items for survival for the time between the disaster and when supplies or services are available through the government or relief agencies.
2. Your emergency supplies kit should provide supplies for a minimum of three days; a 7-day supply is best, with a 3-day supply ready to take with you.
3. Maintain your supplies kit over time to ensure supplies are fresh.

### **Locations for the Emergency Supplies Kit**

1. Home. The emergency supplies kit should be in a location that is easily accessible and will be protected from the effects of a disaster.
2. Work. The emergency supplies kit should be in a single container that allows the person to "grab and go." People should keep comfortable walking shoes at work, as well.
3. Auto. People should keep a basic supplies kit that includes food, water, first aid supplies, and battery cables in their vehicles.

### **C. The Water Supply**

1. Individual needs for water will depend on physical characteristics, outside temperature, and so on.
2. The best source of water for a supplies kit is in-date, commercially bottled water.
3. Each person requires a minimum of one gallon of water per day. Hot weather may cause people to require more water.
4. Keep at least a 7-day supply at home with a 3-day supply ready to take with you.
5. Change the stored water every six months.

### **D. The Food Supply**

1. Avoid foods that will cause thirst.
2. Stock canned foods, dry mixes, and other food items that do not require preparation or cooking.
3. Ensure all foods are within the safe consumable date.
4. Include a hand can opener in the supplies kit.

### **E. Items for the Emergency Supplies Kit**

Direct participants to follow the emergency supplies kit checklist handout.

1. At least a 7-day supply of food and water at home with a 3-day supply ready to take with you;
2. Portable, battery or hand-cranked radio or television and extra batteries;
3. Flashlight and extra batteries;
4. First aid kit and manual;
5. Sanitation and hygiene items;
6. Matches in a waterproof container;
7. Whistle;
8. Extra clothing;
9. Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils;
10. Photocopies of credit and identification cards;
11. Cash and coins;
12. Specific needs items including prescription medicines, contacts, and so on;
13. Items for infants; and
14. Any other unique needs.
15. Entertainment items such as books, pencils, paper, playing cards, etc.

### **F. Maintaining the Emergency Supplies Kit**

1. Keep food supplies in a dry, cool place.
2. Store boxed food in a tightly closed container.
3. Discard any food supplies that have past their expiration date.
4. Place new items in the back of the storage area.
5. Change food and water supplies every six months.
6. Update the items in the supplies kit as needed.
7. Keep the emergency supplies kit in an easy to carry container for “grab and go,” such as a plastic tub or duffle bag.

### **G. Personal Pack for Kids**

1. Include books, crayons, and a favorite stuffed animal.

### Take Important Papers with You

Keep copies of important family records in a waterproof, portable container and keep this information in a place that is secure, yet readily accessible if you need to get it in a hurry. If possible, keep copies of this information at the home of a trusted family member who lives outside of your area, perhaps in another state. Below are some documents you may want to include.

- Driver's license or other personal identification
- Passport
- 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

### When to Go

If local officials issue an evacuation order, leave as soon as possible. Such orders are not made lightly. Coordinating your evacuation plan when you create your family's disaster plan is a good idea. Ensure that you've tested the evacuation routes and that you have planned several in case roads and routes are closed. Evacuation will probably take longer than expected, so leave extra time.

### Family Communication is Key

In a disaster, having a plan in place to communicate with other family members is absolutely vital. Ask an out-of-town friend or relative to be your "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance.

Make sure that all family members know your contact's phone number. You may also want to carry an emergency contact card in your wallet that lists contact information for each family member, as well as your out-of town contact person.

### Utility Shut-off

This is a local decision. Provide local instructions to attendees. Once it's safe to return home, leave natural gas on for heating and cooking unless local officials advise otherwise. If you do turn your gas off, a licensed professional is required to turn it back on. Unplug appliances and turn off the electricity and the main water valve. Tip: keep a shut-off valve wrench near the water shut-off valve in your home.

### Make a Plan

The key to being prepared for a disaster is to have a plan in place before an emergency arises. Preparing in advance by learning about the community's warning systems, evacuation routes, and by making evacuation plans and discussing them with household members is **the best way to be ready**. Making plans at the last minute can be upsetting, can create confusion, and can waste precious time. A family emergency plan is an

important component of the overall disaster preparedness plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes. Phone communication within the community or state may be disrupted. Identify an out-of-state contact who family members can call to maintain communication among each other. Mapping escape routes, informing neighbors, and making individual escape plans, including emergency supply kits and arrangements for traveling with pets and livestock, can all be part of a sound Firewise community planning effort. Collaborating with your neighbors on important issues - how to assist a disabled individual, perhaps - can not only bring peace of mind, but possibly save lives, too. Making your home itself a safer place through Firewise preparation could also mean you could shelter in place should the worst happen and exit routes are unavailable.