

Resident Evacuation Recommendations

PRE-PLAN TO EVACUATE

A wide variety of emergencies may cause an evacuation. In some instances you may have a day or two to prepare, while other situations might call for an immediate evacuation. Planning ahead is vital to ensuring that you can evacuate quickly and safely, no matter what the circumstances.

BEFORE AN EVACUATION

- Opt-in now for city emergency notifications at alertsouthbay.com
- Learn the types of disasters that are likely in your community and the local emergency, evacuation, and shelter plans for each specific disaster.
- **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 motel. Choose destinations in different directions so that you have options during an emergency.
 - If needed, identify a place to stay that will accept [pets](#). Most public shelters allow only service animals.
 - Be familiar with several alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
 - Always follow the instructions of local officials and remember that your evacuation route may be on foot depending on the type of disaster.
- **[Develop a family/household communication and re-unification plan](#)** so that you can maintain contact and take the best actions for each of you and re-unite if you are separated.
- Assemble supplies that are ready for evacuation, both a “go-bag” you can carry when you evacuate on foot or public transportation and supplies for traveling by longer distances if you have a personal vehicle.
- **If you have a car:**
 - Keep a full tank of gas in it if an evacuation seems likely. Keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case of an unexpected need to evacuate. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages. Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.

Resident Evacuation Recommendations

- Make sure you have a portable [emergency kit in the car](#).
- If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if needed. Make arrangements with family, friends or your local government.

IMMEDIATE RISK CAUSING AN EVACUATION

If you smell gas, smoke, see fire or otherwise fear for your safety, evacuate household occupants immediately. From a safe location, call 9-1-1 and report the incident and look for official emergency notifications.

GENERAL EVACUATION ORDERS

If local officials issue evacuation orders, use the evacuation routes and methods specified; carpool whenever possible. If time allows:

- Wear sturdy shoes, long-sleeve shirts and pants.
- Bring car keys, credit cards, road maps, cell phone, charger and important phone numbers.
- Bring your Go-bag.
- If you have a pet, make sure it is wearing a collar, and bring it in a pet carrier labeled with your name and the pet's name. Bring your pet's Go-bag.
- Lock your home and shut off the water and electricity, but leave gas on unless instructed otherwise.
- Leave a note or tell a neighbor where you are going.
- Once you arrive at a safe location, call your out-of-area emergency contact.

DURING AN EVACUATION

Immediately following a large disaster, suitable shelter sites will be selected from a pre-designated list based on areas of need and estimated numbers of displaced persons. Each site must be inspected for safety prior to being opened to the public. Therefore, it is not possible to say with advance certainty which sites will actually operate as disaster shelters. As soon as disaster sites have been formally designated, this list will be announced through local media to the public. If it is unsafe to shelter-in-place, and you do not have an alternative, evacuate to a designated emergency shelter.

Resident Evacuation Recommendations

- A list of open shelters can be found during an active disaster in your local area by downloading the [FEMA app](#).
- Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.
- Take your [emergency supply kit](#).
 - Initially, emergency shelters may not be able to provide basic supplies and materials. Consider bringing extra items (e.g. blanket, pillow, air mattress, towel, washcloth, diapers, food and supplies for infants.)
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Take your pets with you, but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters. [Plan how you will care for your pets in an emergency now](#).
 - If you cannot make other plans for your pets, Animal Care and Control staff will be available at “human” shelters to help with pet sheltering needs.
- If time allows:
 - Text, call or email the out-of-state contact in your [family communications plan](#). Tell them where you are going.
 - Secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows. For a full city evacuation it is often recommended to leave a door unlocked for first responders.
 - 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 provides 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.

Resident Evacuation Recommendations

AFTER AN EVACUATION

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

- Residents returning to disaster-affected areas after significant events should expect and prepare for disruptions to daily activities, and remember that returning home before storm debris is cleared is dangerous.
- Let friends and family know before you leave and when you arrive.
- 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.
- Only use generators away from your home and NEVER run a generator inside a home or garage, or connect it to your home's electrical system.