

Flood Preparedness

Evacuation Tips



Be Prepared Before the Next Flood

In addition to insuring your property, there are things you can do to minimize potential losses to your home and ensure your family's safety. Identify the types of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding, and wind. The following are tips for evacuating before a storm hits. For more information on flood preparation, visit FloodSmart.gov/evacuation.

Have a Place to Go

- If ordered to evacuate, do not wait to depart. If possible, leave before local officials issue an evacuation order for your area. Even a slight delay in starting your evacuation will result in significantly longer travel times as traffic congestion worsens.
- Select an evacuation destination that is nearest to your home, preferably in the same county, or at least minimize the distance you must travel in order to reach your intended shelter location.
- In choosing your destination, keep in mind that the hotels and other sheltering options in most inland metropolitan areas are likely to be filled very quickly in a large evacuation event.
- If you decide to evacuate to another county or region, be prepared to wait in traffic. The large number of people who must evacuate will probably cause massive delays and major congestion along most designated evacuation routes; the larger the storm, the greater the probability of traffic jams and extended travel times.
- If possible, make arrangements to stay with the friend or relative who resides closest to your home and who will not have to evacuate. Discuss the details of your family evacuation plan with your intended host well beforehand.
- If a hotel or motel is your final intended destination during an evacuation, make reservations before you leave. Most hotels and motels will fill quickly once evacuations begin. The longer you wait to make reservations, even if an official evacuation order has not been issued for your area or county, the less likely you are to find room vacancies, especially along interstate highways and in major metropolitan areas. If you have pets, make sure the hotel or motel is pet-friendly.
- If you are unable to stay with friends or family and no hotel/motel rooms are available, go to a shelter as a last resort. Remember, shelters are not designed for comfort and do not usually accept pets. Bring your Disaster Supply Kit with you to the shelter.
- Make sure that you fill up your car with gas before you leave.