

Emergency Evacuation Plans



Flood



Fire



Lightning



Terrorism



Heatwave



Snowstorm



Hurricane



Bombing

Tab 10

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Emergency Evacuation Plans

In some emergency situations, you may decide to leave your home or you may be ordered to leave. Keep in mind that your usual ways of support may not be available to you for some time during and after an evacuation. Prepare yourself based on the capabilities and limitations you believe you will have in an emergency situation.



Evacuation

If you smell gas, see smoke or fire or fear for your safety for other reasons, immediately evacuate everyone in your home. Once you are in a safe place, call 9-1-1 and report what happened.

If local authorities tell you to evacuate, follow their instructions. Use the evacuation routes they give you. Carpool if possible. Follow these steps if you are told to leave your home:



- Decide where you will go beforehand, if you can.**

Think about at least 3 places you could go, like a friend or family member's house, a hotel or a motel outside the area you live. Sometimes public emergency shelters do not provide all the help you may need.

- Call for transportation if you need help.**

Plan more than one way to leave your home and be ready to leave early. Think about how you will call for transportation help if the phones and electricity are not working. In some areas, local government agencies provide transportation for people who need help during an emergency. Ask your local



Emergency Management Office or fire department if transportation services are available for people with disabilities where you live.

Grab your emergency supply kit.



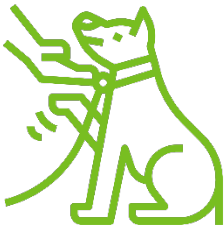
Make sure you take your emergency supply kit and that it has your medicine and important documents in it. Put items that are important to you in the supply kit, or somewhere safe.

Know what equipment you need.

Decide what type of equipment you need to help you. If you can't use the stairs, talk to your emergency support people about how you can leave your building in an emergency.



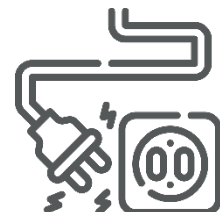
Take care of your pets.



Unlike service animals, pets may not be allowed into emergency shelters. Contact your local Red Cross chapter, Humane Society or your veterinarian for more information about where you can take your pet while you are at a shelter.

Turn off the electricity.

Except for the refrigerator, freezer and emergency heating in the winter to keep pipes from freezing, all your electricity should be turned off at the main box.



Call your personal support group.

It's important that you call the people in your personal support group to let them know you are safe and where you are going. If you plan to leave the area or the state, you may know a telephone number where you will be able to be reached. Give them that number.



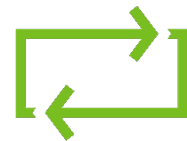
Advocate for yourself.



Practice how to quickly explain how to guide or move you and your adaptive equipment safely and fast. Be ready to give brief, clear and specific instructions to rescue personnel, either verbally or in writing.

Practice your plan.

Practice, practice, practice! Identify anything that could make it difficult. Get your personal support group involved. Ask them to practice how to help you. Practice on different days of the week, and at different times of the day. Evacuating during the day is not the same as evacuating at night when you may not be able to see landmarks that usually guide you.



Practice using more than one evacuation route, since some routes may be blocked by the disaster.

Review and update your plan.



Review and change your plan when you need to, or as your condition or your area changes (such as when new streets are opened or old streets closed). Make sure that if you change your support group people, they practice with you and know your plan.

Adapted from the 'Emergency Preparedness Tool Kit for People with Disabilities' from the Occupation Therapy Department at VCU & Virginia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (VA-LEND) 2007.

Emergency Shelters

You can find out what shelter to go to by listening to your local radio, watching the news or by calling or texting your local Red Cross office. If it is not safe to stay where you are or have a safe place to go, get to a chosen emergency shelter. Stay there until the emergency is over. Remember to:



- Take your emergency supply kit with you to the shelter.
- Tell your emergency support group where you are going.

At first, emergency shelters may not be able to give you basic supplies. Consider bringing extra items you may need. These may include:

- Blanket
- Pillow
- Air mattress
- Towel
- Washcloth
- Food
- Supplies for your children and babies

Usually, only service animals are allowed in emergency shelters. If you can't make other plans for your pets, Animal Care and Control staff at the emergency shelter may be able to help you find a safe place for your pet. Remember to take your pet's emergency supply kit with them!

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