

# In Case an Evacuation Order is Given

In a disaster situation, it may be necessary to evacuate your residence for several days or longer. Because disasters can strike with little or no warning, you should be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. Knowing beforehand the steps to take in case of evacuation can make a big difference in your safety and comfort.

- Contact the local office of emergency management or public safety to learn the evacuation routes for your area. Be aware **some** routes may not be usable depending upon the actual nature of the disaster such as flooding. Evacuation routes are designated and signed with consideration of all types of disasters in mind.
- Determine where you will go if your community is evacuated. Preferably this would be with family or friends in a more remote location away from the evacuated area. **Some shelters may be suitable for some disasters but not for others.**
- Discuss with your family members the possibilities of evacuation, evacuation shelter locations and "rally points" if everyone is not at home at the time the order is given.
- Find out what your child's school evacuation policies are.
- Check that your disaster supply kit is assembled and ready to go.
- Make certain your car is fueled up-fuel may be limited for a time after a disaster.

## WHEN AUTHORITIES TELL YOU TO EVACUATE

- Bring your disaster supply kit
- Wear sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing considering weather conditions.
- Unplug electronic devices if time is available.
- Lock all doors and windows.
- Turn off the main switches for water and electricity and gas valves if instructed to you feel comfortable doing so.
- Inform a friend or relative of your route and planned shelter location.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Watch for washed-out bridges, flooded areas and downed power lines.

## IF YOU ARE GOING TO A PUBLIC SHELTER

- Be aware that alcoholic beverages, weapons and sometimes pets are not allowed in public shelters.
- Practice patience and cooperation. Sharing space with many others can be a challenge.
- Stay in the shelter until authorities advise you it is safe to return to your residence or leave.