



## Evacuation

Evacuation is when we are advised to leave the area due to a hazardous situation. We may be asked to evacuate by vehicle or by foot, depending on the type of emergency. Sometimes there will be watches or warnings issued that will allow us time to prepare ourselves and our homes for an evacuation. Other times there will be no time for preparation. This is why we need to prepare ourselves and families in advance for an emergency evacuation.

Examples of circumstances when local officials may advise us here in Lane County to evacuate the area:

- hazardous substance release
- fire danger
- flood
- tsunami

### **How will we know to evacuate?**

Local officials will let us know through media, such as T.V. and radio, if we need to evacuate or be prepared to evacuate. It is also likely that Lane County's Community Emergency Notification System (CENS) will be used to notify us of instructions for evacuation. (The Community Emergency Notification System works like 911 in reverse. Local officials call the phones of citizens notifying us of an impending emergency). In coastal Lane County, warning sirens are used as notification of a tsunami warning. It is important that we listen and follow instructions given by local authorities during a potential emergency situation.

We also need to listen to our vehicle radio, if evacuating by car, or our battery powered radio, if evacuating by foot, for additional instructions or pertinent information that may be given.

### **Guidelines for evacuation:**

- **Develop a family plan** – By developing a family plan we will be more prepared for a smooth evacuation. Some things we may want to consider when making a family plan are:
  - Designate 2 emergency meeting spots, our homes and one other location, so family members can find one another during an emergency situation.
  - Make sure that family members know each other's phone numbers.

- Keep in mind that because phone lines may be jammed during an emergency situation that sending a text message will sometimes go through, even if our phone calls will not.
- Practice and explain emergency plans with our families.
- **If time, protect our homes** – If time permits it is a good idea that we secure our homes before evacuating. In order to secure our homes we should:

- close and lock all doors and windows
- turn off gas and electricity
- bring all loose objects into the house
- if flooding is the hazard, bring valuables to a higher level of the home
- we should always leave a note at home stating exactly where we are evacuating to

- **Put together grab-n-go bags** – One of the most important steps in preparing for an evacuation is to put together a grab-n-go bag. This is a backpack that is filled with essential materials to help us during our evacuation. Each family member should have his or her own grab-n-go bag to carry. Supplies should be checked every 6 months and replaced as needed. Guidelines for our grab-n-go bags are as follows:

**Food and Water**

- Infant formula and baby food
- Protein bars, granola bars, crackers, cereal, and trail mix
- Drinking water – at least 2 liters per person
- Purification tablets for drinking water
- Other

**Personal Care and Sanitation**

- Prescription medication to last 3 days
- Small first aid kit with bandages, Neosporin, tweezers, scissors, and non-prescription medications
- Extra contact lenses or spare pair of glasses
- Hygiene products ( travel size soaps, shampoo, lotions, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, feminine products)
- Roll of toilet paper
- Enough diapers to last 3 days
- Trash bags for personal use
- Other

**Miscellaneous Tools and Supplies**

- Pocket knife
- Battery powered clock-radio with spare batteries
- Flashlight with spare batteries

- A space blanket (warm blanket that folds down to a very small size – these can be found at any outdoors/sporting goods store)

**Personal Records and Emergency Funds** *(keep these items dry in a zip-lock bag)*

- Photo copy of photo ID's
- Vaccination and medical records
- Extra cash including plenty of coins for vending machines
- Emergency credit card

**Comfort and Stress Management Supplies**

- Small card games and/or toys for entertainment
- Comfort foods such as favorite candy bars or other types of comfort snacks
- Special blankets or stuffed toys

- **Planning for our pets** – When preparing for evacuation it is important that we include our pets in that plan. Most shelters do not allow pets inside the shelter area. We may be forced to board, foster, or leave them tied up outside of the shelter. By preparing a grab-n-go bag for our pets we can increase the likelihood of their survival. For those of us who have dogs, outdoors and sporting goods stores carry backpacks for dogs which would be an ideal way of storing and carrying our pet's grab-n-go bags. If not, carrying them ourselves will also work.

- food and water to last all pets 3 days
- a can opener if the pet food requires it
- a bowl for food and water
- leashes for all pets or a carrying case for the pet
- pet toys
- any medications that they are taking
- copies of medical records, name & number of their veterinarian, feeding schedules and behavioral problems, and current photos and descriptions of all pets (in case they become lost) stored in a zip-lock bag
- plastic bags, cat liter, and a small liter box

- **Other things we should consider** – Some other things we should keep in mind when planning for an evacuation are:
  - Keep a full tank of gas in our car if we suspect there will be an evacuation. Gas pumps may be out of service by the time we are evacuating.
  - Make transportation arrangements with neighbors or friends if we do not own a car.
  - Follow the recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts as they may be blocked.
  - We should not try to drive a vehicle in a flooded area.
  - Always stay clear of downed power lines.

