

## When Authorities Tell You to Evacuate

- \* Bring your disaster supply kit.
- \* Wear sturdy shoes and clothes.
- \* Unplug home electronics.
- \* Place pictures and valuables in a safe or safe place. Take with you only what you need to survive.
- \* Lock the doors and windows.
- \* Turn off the main switches and gas valves, water if instructed to do so.
- \* Inform a friend or relative of your route.
- \* Follow recommended evacuation routes. Watch for washed out bridges, flooded areas and downed trees and power lines.

## Pets

- \* Pets should not be left behind during a disaster, but do not risk your own safety attempting to find them if you must evacuate quickly.
- \* Attach ID tag to your pet with your name and address and phone number.
- \* Most emergency shelters do not allow pets (except service animals).
- \* Make a list of pet shelters away from your immediate area or in the town of a relative or friend you would visit until the all clear is given to return home.
- \* Put together an emergency supply kit for your pet. Include things like favorite food and snacks, food bowl, litter box, medication, vet records.

## During a Flood

- \* Stay tuned to radio or TV for updates.
- \* Watch for flash flooding. You do not have to see rain or even clouds for flooding to occur.
- \* Avoid low-lying areas such as canyons and drainage ditches.

- \* Never walk or drive through rapidly moving water over 6 inches deep. Turn around don't drown!
- \* Do not drive through flooded areas.
- \* Don't allow children to swim or play in flood water. It is contaminated.
- \* If your vehicle stalls in flood water, exit it and move to higher ground.
- \* Evacuate if instructed to do so and do not return until you are told it is safe.

## Tornadoes

- \* Designate a shelter area in your home. Basement or storm cellars are the safest. Otherwise, use an interior room or hallway on the ground. Load bearing walls are the strongest.
- \* Practice getting to your home shelter area with your family. Help them to understand the seriousness of the drill.
- \* If you live in a mobile home, find a sturdy building nearby or a neighbor with a basement where you can take shelter. Mobile homes offer little protection in a tornado.
- \* Be mindful of the tornado alert siren system and take shelter immediately.
- \* Become familiar with the designated shelter areas and know where the nearest shelter to your location is.

## Tornado Watch

A tornado watch means that conditions are favorable for the production of a tornado.

## Tornado Warning

A tornado warning means a tornado has been reported in your area take cover immediately.

## Hardin County Sheriff's Office

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Elizabethtown KY 42701  
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# Emergency Preparedness

A few tips that just could save your life!

Hardin County Sheriff's Office



*A constitutional office  
dedicated to your safety!*

150 N Provident Way, Suite 101  
Elizabethtown KY 42701  
270-765-5133

## Why Prepare for a Disaster?

Disasters can strike without warning, forcing you to go for days without basic necessities or to evacuate your home. Relief workers will be on scene following a disaster, but may not be able to get to your location or search for you immediately.

You must be prepared to sustain your life and those of your family for possibly days before emergency workers can reach you.

Tornados strike the US with a frequency of 1,200 annually. Tornados kill 60 citizens annually and leave hundreds without lodging. Flash floods account for more than 100 deaths annually and many more homes destroyed. In the US annually we have earthquakes at the following average rates:

Magnitude	Number / year
* 7.0 to 7.9	.6
* 6.0 to 6.9	5.6
* 5.0 to 5.9	54
* 4.0 to 4.9	355
* 3.0 to 3.9	1494
* 2.0 to 2.9	1685

All of these statistics tell us that a natural disaster will be coming to a town near you real soon. Are you ready?

## Basic Emergency Plan

Family preparedness begins with a plan! The plan must be practical, easy to understand, and practiced. You must

- \* Decide what to do for each type emergency.
- \* Have a floor plan of your house with exits plainly marked.
- \* Choose a place to meet in case family members are separated during the evacuation from your home.
- \* Give each family member a phone number of a person not in your area to contact if you get separated.

- \* Post emergency numbers by each phone and teach small children how to dial 911.
- \* Know how and where to shut off all utilities to your home.
- \* Plan for elderly or family members with special needs.
- \* Keep all medications in a safe place easy to get to. Make sure you keep at least a weeks supply on hand.

## Prepare a Disaster Supply Kit

In case of immediate evacuation from your home, a disaster supply kit may have to sustain your family as much as a week into the disaster. Pack supplies in easily portable containers like duffel bags or back packs and keep them in a designated place. The list below will help to ensure your kit has all the essentials:

### Water

- \* Pack at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days.
- \* Store water in tightly sealed non-breakable plastic containers.
- \* Change the water every six months.

### Food

- \* Pack enough food to last each family member three days.
- \* Include canned or box foods because of simple preparation. Include a manual can opener.
- \* Pack foods in sealed water tight containers.
- \* Replace foods every six months.
- \* Include age sensitive foods for family members with special needs.

### Tools and Equipment

- \* Battery or crank powered radio capable of many frequencies including NOAA weather radio.
- \* Flashlights
- \* Spare batteries

- \* Resealable plastic bags.
- \* Washcloths and towels.
- \* Paper cups, plates and plastic utensils.
- \* Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant and other necessary toiletries including any special needs issues.
- \* Heavy-duty plastic garbage bags.
- \* Change of clothing and an extra pair of shoes and sox for each person.
- \* Blankets or a sleeping bag for each person.

### Personal Items

- \* Personal identification and medication list for each person.
- \* Copies of birth and marriage certificates, inventory of household goods, bank account numbers and other important documents.
- \* Maps
- \* Extra car and house keys.

## In Case of Evacuation

Many times during a disaster people must be evacuated. When evacuations are necessary they seldom come at a convenient time. Your transition will be much smoother if you are prepared for evacuation in advance. The steps below will help you be better prepared in the event you must evacuate.

- \* Contact your local emergency management to learn the named evacuation routes.
- \* Determine in advance where you would go if you had to evacuate.
- \* Discuss with your family the possibility of an evacuation.
- \* If you have school age children find out about the schools evacuation policy.
- \* Make sure your disaster supply kit is assembled and ready to go.
- \* If you do have some advanced warning make sure your car is full of gas.