

Preparing for Evacuation

Evacuating your Home

Often the message from the Emergency Services is to “Go In, Stay In, Tune In” but sometimes if there is a serious threat to human life or welfare (for example, a gas leak, explosion or flooding) then it may be necessary to evacuate. If the Emergency Services tell you to evacuate your home you should do so. Refusing to leave on their advice will put you, and those trying to help you, at risk. Local Authorities have designated Emergency Rest Centres that can be opened if a large number of residents have to leave their homes, however, resources may be limited and if possible you should try to stay with family or an Emergency Friend.

What is a Rest Centre?

- Emergency evacuation points such as schools, halls, community centres or even pubs can provide immediate shelter for people who have been evacuated
- Pre-designated locations can be opened as rest centres which are staffed by volunteers and provide basic facilities for sleeping, feeding and other welfare needs
- Transport to and from rest centres is often provided, including specialist transport and support for those who require it
- If you are evacuated to a rest centre in an emergency you do not have to stay there, once you have gathered your thoughts you may prefer to contact a family member or friend to stay with. All we ask is that you notify a member of staff that you are leaving

What about pets?

- In extreme circumstances it may not be possible to take pets with you. In flooding incidents, the advice may be to place your pets upstairs at home or on high ground
- Emergency rest centres have limited capacity for pets but you will be required to bring your own cage/carrier. We will do everything possible to provide accommodation at a particular centre. However, it will be at the discretion of the Rest Centre Manager



Know the risks, be informed, get prepared!

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Evacuation Advice

- Follow the instructions from the Emergency Services or Local Authority
- Remain calm and leave as quickly as possible— listen carefully to the messages from the emergency services, if you need specialist assistance, such as adapted transport or medical support you will be told how to obtain this
- Check neighbours to ensure they know what is happening, or to help if needed
- Gather family members and pets together and prepare to leave your home - plan somewhere to meet members of your household in case you are separated from one another - refer to your Household Emergency Plan
- Use the transport provided, where made available
- If using your own vehicle, follow directions, do not enter restricted areas or closed roads and be aware that parking can be limited at some emergency centres
- Take with you:
 - Prescribed medicines, toiletries and everyday medicines
 - Your Emergency Kit—see “Developing a Household Emergency Plan”
 - Change of clothing
 - If appropriate, baby clothing, nappies and associated toiletries
 - Special dietary foods if relevant
 - Important documents, valuables
 - Important telephone numbers of friends and relatives
 - Baskets or cages or leads for pets
 - Personal items such as glasses, mobile telephone, keys, cash or credit cards
- Make sure fires are out and turn off gas, water and electricity supplies, if advised to do so. Allow adequate ventilation prior to turning them back on once it is safe to do so
- Secure your property
- Report to the allocated Emergency Rest Centre
- Do not return home unless you are told it is safe to do so



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