



EMERGENCY EVACUATION Information

KNOW ALL OF YOUR WAYS OUT



When disaster strikes, residents may be asked to evacuate their homes. Depending on the emergency, the safest route out of your neighborhood may not be the typical route you would take. It's important to familiarize your household with your surrounding neighborhood. Know all the ways out and listen for instructions from emergency personnel on which way to go when asked to evacuate.

Learn your evacuation routes BEFORE an emergency.

SUBSCRIBE TO ALERTLCF

Register for emergency notifications at <https://cityoflcf.org/public-safety/alert-lcf/> to receive evacuation notices by phone call, text, and/or email. Evacuation notices sent through AlertLCF will use the following terminology:

Evacuation Order:

You must evacuate immediately due to imminent threat to life.

Evacuation Warning:

There is potential threat to life and property within a given timeframe. Begin preparing yourself, your animals, and your property for a potential evacuation order.

Shelter-In-Place:

Stay secure at your current location. This may be required when evacuation is impossible, too dangerous, or unnecessary.



PREPARE HOUSHOLD AHEAD OF TIME

In certain emergencies, you may need to manually open your garage door, shut off your gas, or take other important actions. You should also have a "Go Bag" pre-packed and ready before an emergency.

KEEP EVACUATION CHECKLIST VISIBLE



A variety of emergencies may require an evacuation. You may have a few hours to prepare, other circumstances may require an immediate evacuation. If time allows, there are important steps you can take to better prepare yourself and your property before you leave.

Keep this checklist of pre-evacuation steps visible — near your front door, on the refrigerator, or next to the garage door opener — and follow the checklist (back of page) when time allows.

Checklist (over) →



EVACUATION CHECKLIST

Before you evacuate, follow these steps (when time allows):



Prepare Yourself & Family

- Put "Go Bags" in your vehicle.
- Listen to the radio and follow local evacuation instructions.
- Carry car keys, wallet, ID, cell phone, and spare battery.
- Leave a note informing others of the date you are leaving and where you are going.
- During smoky conditions, cover faces with cotton or wool bandana/scarf over an N95 respirator. Tie Back long hair.
- Carry a headlamp and flashlight (even during the day).
- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection: long pants, long-sleeved shirts, goggles, gloves, and head protection or a hat. Heavy cotton or wool is best, no matter how hot it is.
- Drink plenty of water, stay hydrated.
- If time allows, call or email an out-of-state contact and tell them where you are going.



Prepare Your Pets & Animals

- Place carriers (with your pets in them) near the front door, with fresh water and extra food so they are ready to go.
- Prepare horses and large animals for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early, before evacuation is ordered.
- Take your pets with you but understand that only services animals may be permitted in public shelters.



Prepare Inside the House

- Shut all windows and doors (interior too).
- Remove combustible window shades and curtains; close metal shutters.
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows.
- Leave indoor and outdoor lights on.
- Shut off HVAC and ceiling fans.
- Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding. If there is damage to your home and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas, and electricity before leaving.



Prepare Outside & Around the Neighborhood

- Check on, or call neighbors to alert them of emergency. Assist elderly and those with access and functional needs.
- Plan to carpool with neighbors to reduce traffic and only take essential vehicles with adequate fuel. Back your car into driveway, loaded with "Go Bags" and other necessities, leave doors and windows closed.
- Place combustible outdoor items (patio furniture, toys, trash cans, etc.) in garage or 30' from structures.
- Consider need to shut off gas at the meter or propane tank; move small tanks at least 15' away from combustibles.
- Connect garden hoses with squeeze grip nozzles to outdoor spigots for use by firefighters. Don't leave sprinklers on or water running - they are ineffective and can reduce critical water pressure for the entire neighborhood.
- Fill water buckets and place around outside of house, especially near decks and fences.
- Prop open fence and side gates.
- Place ladder(s) at the corner(s) of structures for firefighters.
- Seal attic and ground vents with precut plywood or metal covers (even duct tape will protect from ember entry) if time allows.
- Patrol your property and monitor conditions. Leave immediately if ordered. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel unsafe, spot fires ignite, or conditions change; leave early if unsure to avoid being trapped by severe conditions.



Follow this guidance once you evacuate:

In your car, turn on headlights, close windows, turn on inside air and AC.

Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.

Drive slowly and defensively; be observant. Proceed downhill and away from the hazard if possible. Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas.

If roads are impassable or you are trapped: take shelter in a building, car, or an open area; park in an outside turn if trapped on a hillside; stay far from vegetation; look for wide roads, parking lots, playing fields, etc.

Have temporary refuge areas pre-planned in your neighborhood if needed; this includes large parking lots, large open lush green grass areas, etc.

Don't abandon your car in the road if passage is impossible. If you must leave your car, park it off the road and consider other options for shelter.

