

## Evacuation and community shelters

Local government officials issue evacuation orders when disaster threatens. Listen to local radio and TV reports when an emergency arises. If local officials ask you to leave, do so immediately!



**If you only have moments to evacuate, grab the following:**

- Medical supplies—prescription medications, diabetes test strips, etc.

- Eyeglasses or contact lenses and cleaning solution



- Emergency preparedness kit

- Clothing and bedding



- Car keys

**If local officials haven't advised an immediate evacuation, take these steps to protect your home before you leave:**

- Turn off electricity at the main fuse or breaker and turn off water at the main valve.



- Leave natural gas on unless local officials advise otherwise.



- If high winds are expected, cover the exterior of all windows.

- If flooding is expected, consider using sandbags to keep water away.



- Take important papers with you—driver's license, social security card, insurance policies, birth and marriage certificates, stocks, wills, etc.



Community shelters may be opened in certain emergencies or disasters. Local media will announce their locations. In most cases the shelter will provide only emergency items such as meals, cots and blankets.



Be aware that pets (other than service animals) usually are not permitted in community shelters for health reasons.

Remember: If you must evacuate your home, be sure to grab your glasses or contact lenses and medications.



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