

Practical Steps to Prepare for Disaster Evacuation

When directed to leave your home and to seek shelter elsewhere because of a threatening weather emergency, the greatest risk to the safety of you and your family is complacency. We all remember the people living in low-lying areas who died because they disregarded orders for evacuation as Super Storm Sandy approached their communities. We never want that to happen to anyone, especially our Absecon residents. Evacuation orders are not issued unless there is a direct threat to life and property. If such an order is issued for the City of Absecon, we urge you to make plans to leave your home as soon as possible, following all directions for evacuation from emergency management officials. The following practical steps will help you to prepare to respond promptly to an order for evacuation.

1. Relocate outside the evacuation area any vehicles not needed for evacuation and any boats or trailers on your property.
2. If possible, make immediate arrangements for kenneling or other temporary housing of family pets outside the evacuation area.
3. Withdraw additional cash and fill up the vehicle you will use to evacuate.
4. Collect all important documents (including birth certificates, marriage licenses, titles and degrees, passports, insurance policies, bank and investment records, and other important personal information) and family photos. If you have a safe deposit box, place them there. Otherwise, store them in a waterproof container in the trunk of your evacuation vehicle. Have all your credit cards on your person.
5. Fill a cooler with ice (stores will run out of ice quickly) and store there any medicine requiring refrigeration. Bring enough water bottles and other water containers to last for 3 days (one gallon per person, per day).
6. Pack enough dry and canned goods for at least 3 days, and include a can opener, utensils and plates.
7. Pack enough clothing to last for one week along with pillows, sheets, blankets, towels, all medicines, personal care items, wet wipes, toilet paper, hand sanitizers and a simple first aid kit.

8. If possible, establish standing arrangements to stay with family or friends outside the evacuation area.
9. Prepare a list of contact information for family and close friends and any emergency telephone numbers. Include contact information for your insurance companies and policy numbers.
10. For babies and young children, in addition to clothing, pack formula, diapers, baby food, a few toys and games, bottles and special feeding implements, diaper cream and lotions.
11. Pack a basic tool kit, flashlights, batteries and a battery operated radio. Take all cell phones, chargers, a camera and all keys to your vehicles and home.
12. If you cannot make other arrangements for your pets, include their identification, vet records, medications and food for at least one week. Include a pet carrier, if available, muzzle, leash and bowl. Public shelters do not accept pets, so check ahead to locate a pet-friendly motel outside the evacuation area.
13. Confirm with household members the time of departure so that you all can leave together. Leave a note in your kitchen and telephone and/or e-mail family or close friends outside the evacuation area to advise of your departure time and intended destination. Before you leave take plenty of photos of the interior and exterior of your home in the event of a future insurance claim.
14. Leave as soon as possible after the order to evacuate is issued. Wear sturdy shoes and suitable clothing to protect you against the weather.
15. While you are preparing to evacuate and immediately before you leave your home, check on your neighbors and encourage them to take immediate steps to evacuate also. If you find that a neighbor is unwilling or unable to do so, call (609) 418-0115 to advise Absecon Emergency Management officials.

REMEMBER: NO POSSESSION IS WORTH THE LOSS OF LIFE!