

AFTER **NORMAL**

LEAVE EARLY: THE EVACUATION PACK

A calm, step-by-step plan for when to go, what to take, where to end up, and how to come home safely

DECIDE ON A CALM DAY. LEAVE BEFORE THE ROADS FILL.

For: For any household that might have to leave home because of a hurricane, flood, wildfire or other emergency, including families with children, older relatives, pets, medical needs, or no car.



KEEP THIS PAGE

THE ONE-PAGE SUMMARY: WHAT TO DO, IN ORDER

- 1 Learn your alert words and your evacuation zone, and sign up for local alerts by more than one channel.
- 2 Write your own leave-early rules on the Leave-Early Trigger Sheet, and decide who makes the call.
- 3 Name anyone who needs extra time, and plan to leave at the first official step for them.
- 4 Keep at least a half tank of fuel, or a half-charged battery, at all times. Fill up when a threat is a week away.
- 5 Pack a go bag for each person and pet: 1 day of water in the bag plus 2 more days in a car bin, 3 days of food, and at least 7 days of medicines.
- 6 Put your papers in one waterproof container and keep a password-protected digital copy somewhere else.
- 7 Choose two routes out and drive both twice a year with your kit in the car.
- 8 Pick three destinations (near, regional, out-of-region) and book rooms and pet-friendly lodging early.
- 9 Settle your ride and your helpers now. If you have no car, make your first call this week.
- 10 Write a family communication plan: an out-of-area contact, two meeting places, and texts instead of calls.
- 11 Work your countdown: the week clock, the 24-hour clock, then the 10-minute clock if you must.
- 12 Secure the home, leave the gas alone unless you smell it or officials or your gas utility say otherwise, leave a note inside and go. Do not go back inside.
- 13 Return only after officials say it is safe, in daylight, with a partner. Photograph everything before you touch it.
- 14 Review your plan, bags and papers every six months.

PART 1**WHEN TO GO: WATCH, WARNING, ORDER AND YOUR OWN TRIGGER**

This section teaches you to read the official alert words, then to write your own leave-early rules while you are calm. When stress arrives, the decision is already made.

TIP

Your first 30 minutes: (1) find your evacuation zone, (2) sign up for local alerts, (3) fill in the Trigger Sheet at the end of this section, in pencil. You can improve it later.

DECIDE NOW, NOT THEN

Most evacuation trouble starts with waiting. People wait for one more update, one more neighbor, one more hour. Then the roads fill, the wind rises or the smoke arrives, and the easy choices are gone.

Ready.gov gives the plain advice: leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather. This section turns that into rules you can follow without thinking hard. You will learn the alert words, learn why timing matters, and finish with a one-page Leave-Early Trigger Sheet that you fill in yourself.

VOLUNTARY, RECOMMENDED OR MANDATORY?

Guide's advice: officials may call an order voluntary, recommended or mandatory, and the wording differs by county. Treat voluntary as 'leave now if you need extra time or live in a vulnerable home.' Treat mandatory as 'go.' If you stay after a mandatory order, emergency crews may not be able to reach you.

A shelter-in-place order means the opposite: stay inside and follow officials. Write your county's exact words on your Trigger Sheet.

FREE SAMPLE

THAT WAS A TASTE

You have just read the opening of **Leave Early: The Evacuation Pack**. The full guide has 10 parts, including:

☐ When to Go: Watch, Warning, Order and Your Own Trigger

☐ Three Clocks: A Week, 24 Hours, 10 Minutes

☐ Go Bags for Every Person and Pet

☐ Papers, Money and Digital Backups

☐ The Car, and Leaving Without One

☐ Routes and Destinations: Where You Will Go

☐ Leaving Home Safely and Staying in Touch

☐ Special Situations: Extra Time, Equipment and Split Households

☐ Returning Home Safely

☐ Hazard Pages: Leave or Shelter in Place?

Get it as an instant PDF download at afternormal.co/guides/evacuation.html