HOME EVACUATION PLAN

Know what to do — before it happens

Your evacuation plan must match your available time. A house fire gives you seconds. A wildfire warning may give you 20 minutes. A hurricane forecast may give you days. Use this checklist to build a plan for each scenario — and practice the one you're most likely to need.

TIER 1 NO NOTICE — 0 to 2 Minutes

House fire · Earthquake · Gas leak · Structural failure

■ ***At this tier, you are NOT gathering belongings. You are getting out. This plan must already be memorized — there is no time to think.***

- ■ **Everyone knows two ways out of every room.**
  Draw a floor plan and walk every exit with your household.
- ■ **Pre-assigned roles are decided and practiced.**
  Who grabs go-bags? Who gets the dog? Who checks the kids' rooms?
- ■ **Go-bags are staged near an exit — not in a closet.**
  You can't grab what you can't reach in 60 seconds.
- ■ **Everyone knows the outside meeting spot.**
  A specific location — not just "outside." The end of the driveway, the neighbor's mailbox. Be exact.
- ■ **Everyone can operate all door and window locks from inside.**
  Including children. Test this now.
- ■ **This plan has been practiced at least once.**
  Walk through it. It has to run on muscle memory.

TIER 2 SHORT NOTICE — 20 Minutes to 2 Hours

Wildfire · Flash flood · Hazmat incident · Rapid escalation

You have time to move deliberately — but only if your go-bags are already packed. Leave before roads congest. Do not wait for a Level 3 order.

- ■ **Account for all household members before you leave.**
  Do not assume everyone is with you. Call out, check rooms.
- ■ **Grab go-bags — one per person, already packed and ready.**
  This is exactly what they're for. Do not repack. Just grab.
- ■ **Load pets and pet supplies.**
  Leash, carrier, medications, food and water for 72 hours.
- ■ **Grab critical medications not already in go-bags.**
  Prescription refills, medical equipment, power supplies.
- ■ **Take irreplaceable documents if within reach.**
  Passports, birth certificates, insurance cards. If your go-bag already has copies, skip this.
- ■ **Notify your out-of-area contact — tell them you're leaving.**
  Brief message: who's with you, where you're going, your route.
- ■ **Follow your primary evacuation route. Know your alternate.**
  Roads congest fast. If primary is blocked, go to alternate immediately — do not wait.

- [ ] **Leave early — don't wait for a Level 3 order.**
  If you're at Level 2 and you have children, pets, or mobility needs — leave now.

TIER 3 ADVANCE NOTICE — Hours to Days

Hurricane · Forecasted flooding · Pre-evacuation warning

You have time to be thorough. Use it. The mistake at this tier is waiting too long and losing the advantage your warning time gives you.

- [ ] **Fill up the gas tank — do it now, not when everyone else is at the pump.**
  Gas stations in evacuation zones run out fast. Go early.
- [ ] **Book your hotel room now if that's your plan.**
  Decide where you're going — outside the affected zone — and book it immediately. Hotels fill up fast. You can always cancel if you don't need it. Don't wait until you're on the road with nowhere to go.
- [ ] **Pack extra medications and medical supplies beyond your go-bag.**
  A multi-day evacuation may outlast your go-bag supply. Bring the full prescription if possible.
- [ ] **Take irreplaceable items: photos, heirlooms, sentimental items.**
  Insurance replaces things. It doesn't replace what matters to you.
- [ ] **Secure your home before leaving.**
  Close and lock windows and doors. Unplug appliances. Shut off utilities if instructed by local officials.
- [ ] **Contact your out-of-area person — give them your full plan.**
  Where you're going, your route, who is with you, expected arrival time.
- [ ] **Choose your destination thoughtfully.**
  Know whether you're going to a public shelter, a family member's home, or a hotel — and have a backup for each.
- [ ] **Bring extra cash.**
  ATMs and card readers may be down in affected areas. Cash is king in a disruption.
- [ ] **Review and update your plan with all household members before leaving.**
  Everyone should know the destination, the route, and the out-of-area contact.

WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

Primary Destination	Alternate Destination	Pet-Friendly Option
Primary Route Out of Neighborhood	**Alternate Route**	**County Alert Sign-Up**
		oralert.gov | alertwilderness.com Check your county emergency management website

Know your local alert system before you need it. Most counties and municipalities use an official emergency notification system. Sign up now and know what their evacuation warning levels mean in your area. Find your local system through your county or municipal emergency management website.