

# evacuation

When you are in an unfamiliar building, be aware of exit locations. At work, know your office evacuation plan.

**In your Family Plan for Disasters and Emergencies, map out your route to shelters or to locations out of the area.** Be familiar with alternate routes. Remember local meeting places, often called “rally points,” and an out-of-town contact in case family members are separated (see pages 5–6 in the yellow, center pull-out section).

If you have children in schools, familiarize yourself with their emergency plans and where students are to be sent if an evacuation is announced.

- **Monitor news media for instructions about evacuation. If told to evacuate, do so quickly.**
- **Follow evacuation route instructions.**
- **Bring your Disaster Supply Kit.**
- **Keep your vehicle filled with at least a half tank of gas at all times. Never store additional gasoline in your home, vehicle or shed.**
- **If you don't have a vehicle, plan another way to leave.**
- **Lock your house. Leave a note in a sealed envelope marked “emergency information” in an obvious location. Include when you left, where you are going, and contact numbers.**
- **Check on the elderly, who may need your assistance and reassurance.**
- **Enact your Pet Safety Plan.**

## **If time allows:**

- **Call or email your out-of-area contact about your plans.**
- **If your home is damaged and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving. Be familiar with the location of shut-off valves before a disaster. If you turn off the gas, a professional must turn it back on. Do not attempt to do this yourself.**
- **Check with neighbors who may need assistance and/or rides.**