



# Disaster Evacuation Checklist

## How Do I Prepare for a Natural Disaster?

Texas is the most disaster prone state in the country with 372 federal disaster declarations since 1953. Texans know that it isn't a matter of "if" a disaster will occur, it's a matter of "when." It is vital to prepare your family, home, and community ahead of the next natural disaster.

### ▶ Know Your Risk

Sign up for your community's emergency warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

### ▶ Make Your Evacuation Plan

Check with local officials about updated evacuation shelters for this year. Know where your family will meet up if you are separated and where you will stay. Pack a "go bag" including items you need to take with you if you evacuate. A "go bag" should be easy to carry and kept in a place where you can grab it quickly. Check with [drivetexas.org](http://drivetexas.org) to find routes near you. To find a shelter near you, download the FEMA app at [fema.gov/mobile-app](http://fema.gov/mobile-app).

### ▶ Gather Supplies

- Plan for your entire household including children, people with disabilities or access/functional needs, and pets.
- Gather supplies for at least three days.
- Always keep your gas tank at least half full and remember to charge electronics you may need.
- You may be away from your home for an extended period and your property may be damaged. Grab any items that are irreplaceable or may provide comfort to your family, especially your children. Ask yourself, "What would I need for myself and my family if we had to leave home?"

### ▶ Secure Documents

Remember to secure copies of important personal documents. Applying for government assistance requires documentation. Be sure to keep documents in a secure location and take them with you if you need to evacuate. Place these documents in a waterproof bag and back them up on cloud storage or a thumb drive.

### ▶ Protect Your Property

Shutter your home as needed, review your flood insurance policy (or sign up for one), and declutter drains and gutters. Most homeowner and renter insurance policies do not cover flood damage. A flood insurance policy generally does not take effect until 30 days after purchase, so be sure to maintain your policy. Take a video "tour" of your home to document all items and the home's current condition.

**Texas General Land Office**  
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.





# Disaster Evacuation Checklist

The time to prepare for a disaster is now. This helpful checklist will get you started. Make sure to include your entire family - and its unique needs - in the preparation and discuss your emergency plan with them. Print this list and keep it with your emergency kit and “go bag”.

## MEDICAL NEEDS

- Medications for at least one week and copies of prescriptions
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses and supplies
- Medical equipment/assistive technology and backup batteries
- First aid kit

## TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

- Cell phone and charging equipment
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries for electronics
- Tool kit
- Matches or lighter in waterproof container
- Whistle
- Blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, towels
- Soap/disinfectant/sanitizer
- Paper towels/moist towelettes
- Toilet paper

## FOOD AND FAMILY SUPPLIES

- Cash and credit cards
- At least a three-day supply of water and non-perishable food
- Manual can opener
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and supplies
- Extra warm clothes
- Comfortable shoes
- Toothbrush and toothpaste

## COMFORT AND PRICELESS ITEMS

- Photo albums, books, puzzles, favorite stuffed toy, valuables

## DOCUMENTATION

- Government Issued Photo ID (e.g., driver's license, passport)
- Personal records (e.g., birth certificates, marriage certificates)
- Medical records
- Financial information (e.g., bank account or credit card information)
- Property records (e.g., insurance policies, deed, or lease)
- Utility bills
- Property tax records
- Waterproof, portable container for important documents
- Vaccination records

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Make sure you have phone numbers and email addresses for family, school, and work contacts, as well as:

Primary physician:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Health insurance:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home insurance:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Auto insurance:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Flood insurance:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Other insurance:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Financial institutions:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

FEMA Disaster Helpline: 1-800-621-FEMA

TTY: 1-800-462-7585

VRS: 1-800-621-3362

Red Cross Helpline: 1-800-733-2727