

Evacuation Checklist

By John F. Smith

- If Evacuation is a Possibility
 - Map out a floor plan of your home, and include a main escape route.
 - Practice family fire drill and evacuation plans.
 - Designate a meeting place outside for all members of the household.
 - Park your vehicle facing outward and carry your car keys with you.
 - Locate your pets and keep nearby.
 - Ensure that everyone can unlock all doors and windows to escape.
 - Reinforce to your family that everyone must vacate immediately when they hear the alarm.
 - Document an annotated list of all belongings.
 - Prepare a list of valuables to take with you.
 - Keep evacuation vehicle gas tank full.
- Before Leaving
 - Leave one light on in each general area.
 - Leave windows closed - air conditioning off.
 - Follow any official agency's evacuation instructions.
 - Prepare an "information note" to leave on the door detailing who you are and where you have gone.
 - Release any livestock in the area.
 - Turn on exterior lights.
- What to Take
 - Food and water.
 - Toiletries (if time permits).
 - Clothing (if time permits).
 - Documents such as birth certificates, drivers' licenses, legal or insurance papers.
 - Money and credit cards.
 - Medications.
 - Jewelry.
 - Sentimental property, such as photo albums and irreplaceable keepsakes.