

✓ Checklists for Evacuation Preparations Encouraged Ahead of Possible Flooding

With the threat of possible flooding, Missouri residents should begin preparing to leave their homes on short notice if evacuation becomes necessary. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) offer the following recommendations to help people plan for if they have to leave home quickly to escape a flood.

If you are under a flood watch or warning:

- Gather any emergency supplies you previously stocked in your home and stay tuned to local radio or television station for updates. See list of emergency supplies below.
- If evacuation appears necessary, turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve.
- Have your immunization records handy, or be aware of your last tetanus shot, in case you receive a puncture wound or a wound becomes contaminated during or after the flood.

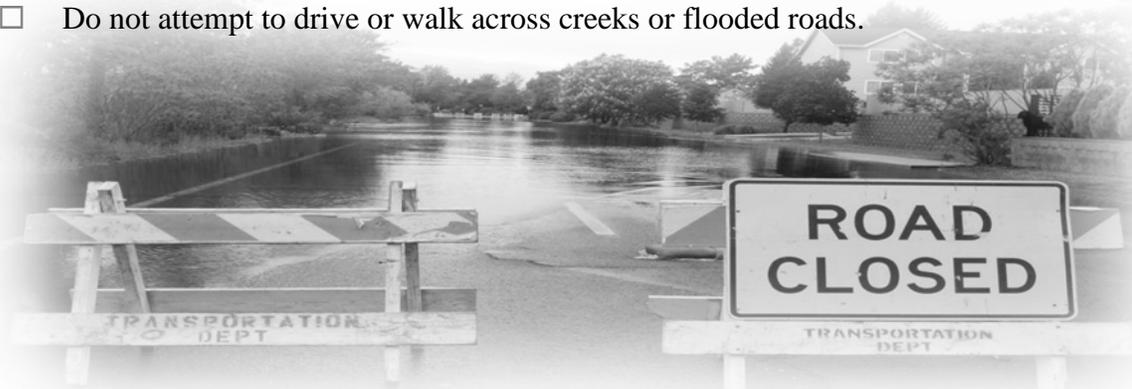
Preparing to Evacuate

- Fill your vehicle's gas tank and make sure the emergency kit for your car is ready.
- If no vehicle is available, make arrangements with friends or family for transportation.
- Gather essential documents such as medical records, birth certificates, driver's license, insurance information and medical alert cards. Place these in a water-proof container to carry with you during evacuation.
- If you have pet, identify a shelter designated for pets.
- Tune in the radio or television for weather updates.
- Listen for disaster sirens and warning signals.
- Put livestock and family pets in a safe area. Due to food and sanitation requirements, emergency shelters cannot accept animals.
- Adjust the thermostat on refrigerators and freezers to the coolest possible temperature.

If You Are Ordered to Evacuate

You should never ignore an evacuation order. Authorities will direct you to leave if you are in a low-lying area, or within the greatest potential path of the rising waters. If a flood warning is issued for your area or you are directed by authorities to evacuate the area:

- Take only essential items with you.
- If you have time, turn off the gas, electricity, and water.
- Disconnect appliances to prevent electrical shock when power is restored.
- Follow the designated evacuation routes and expect heavy traffic.
- Do not attempt to drive or walk across creeks or flooded roads.



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Emergency Supplies You Will Need

You should stock your home with supplies that may be needed during the emergency period. At a minimum, these supplies should include:

- Several clean containers for water, large enough for a 3-5 day supply of water (about five gallons for each person).
- A 3-5 day supply of non-perishable food and a non-electric can opener.
- A first aid kit and manual, prescription medicines, and other medical necessities.
- A battery-powered radio, flashlights, and extra batteries.
- Sleeping bags or extra blankets.
- Water-purifying supplies, such as chlorine or iodine tablets or unscented, ordinary household chlorine bleach.
- Baby food and/or prepared formula, diapers, and other baby supplies.
- Disposable cleaning cloths, such as "baby wipes" for the whole family to use in case bathing facilities are not available.
- Personal hygiene supplies, such as soap, toothpaste, sanitary napkins, etc.
- An emergency kit for your car with food, flares, booster cables, maps, tools, a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, sleeping bags, etc.
- Rubber boots, sturdy shoes, and waterproof gloves.
- Insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin, screens, or long-sleeved and long-legged clothing for protection from mosquitoes which may gather in pooled water remaining after the flood.



More information about flood-related issues can be accessed on the DHSS web site at the following link: http://ephtn.dhss.mo.gov/EPHTN_Data_Portal/weather_climate/.