

PET MANAGEMENT DURING SEVERE NATURAL HAZARDS

Should you have to evacuate, take your pets with you or board them at a reputable animal shelter. If it is not safe for you to stay in your home, it is not safe for them either. There is no way to predict what will happen to your home while you are gone, and you may not be able to return for weeks.

Should you take them with you...

- Find animal friendly accommodations.

Most evacuation shelters do not accept pets. Many hotels and motels lift "no pet" policies during emergencies. Call in advance and ask about restrictions on number, size, and species and make your reservation as soon as you think you might need to leave your home.

- Plan for safety and stress reduction. Take sturdy leashes, or carriers to safely transport your pets. Carriers should be large enough for your companions to stand up, lie down, and turn around comfortably. Make sure to include bedding and if possible special items such as a favorite toy to reduce stress.
- Take supplies for at least five days. Supplies should include dry food, bottled water, food and water bowls, cat litter and a small litter tray. Store medications and medical records in a waterproof container and don't forget a first aid kit.
- Make sure your pets are wearing collars with secure tags and that the contact information is legible in case they become separated from you.

If you have *absolutely no choice* but to leave your pets, please take the following precautions to protect them:

- Never turn your pets loose. It is best to leave them in a secure space inside your home where they can freely roam.
- Provide at least ten days supply of food and water. Fill several bowls with water and place them on the floor throughout the house. It is also a good idea to fill sinks with water and leave the toilet seat up if your toilet bowl is free of chemical disinfectants. Make sure to use dry food, as canned food will go bad quickly.

