

IF ASKED TO EVACUATE

Local Public Safety officials may deem evacuation is necessary due to flooding in your area. If asked to evacuate, please do so in a speedy and responsible manner.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency offers tips for those who evacuate.

Planning for Evacuation

- Ask your local Emergency Management Office about community evacuation plans.
- Learn proposed evacuation routes and locations of public shelters.
- If you do not have personal transportation, make arrangements with friends or your local government.
- Make a plan with family members for a destination if you have to leave your community. In your planning, consider different scales of evacuation – neighborhood, town, county, etc.
- Assemble a Disaster Supply Kit.
- Keep your car fueled if evacuation seems likely. Gas stations may be closed during an emergency, or unable to pump gas during power outages.
- Know how to shut off your home's electricity, gas and water supplies at main switches and valves.

What to do if asked/told to evacuate

- Gather all persons in the house together.
- Household members outside the area may be advised not to return during an evacuation. They may be directed to a reception center or mass care shelter where you can join them.
- Do not call your local fire or police departments for information. Emergency workers will need their lines for emergency use. If you need special help, call your local Emergency Management Office or Mass 2-1-1.
- Stay tuned to your Emergency Alert System radio station.
- Turn off lights and unnecessary appliances.
- Close and lock windows and doors.
- Check with neighbors to see if they need assistance. Offer to share transportation.
- Let others know where you are going.
- If you need a ride, try to get one with neighbors or contact your local Emergency Management Office.
- If you have livestock, shelter them. Leave them at least a three-day supply of stored feed and water that has been protected from possible contamination.

How to travel

- Keep the car radio tuned to an Emergency Alert System station.
- Be aware of designated evacuation routes.
- Avoid routes that are closed or have deep standing water.

What to take with you

Essential items. You may be away from home for a few hours to a few days.

- Clothing for several days.
- Toilet articles (Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)
- Prescription medicines, medical equipment and important medical records.
- Special dietary foods.
- Baby supplies.
- Blankets, pillows, and towels (if you plan on staying at a Public Mass Care Shelter).
- Identification and important papers.
- Checkbook, credit card and cash.

About your pets

- Only seeing-eye dogs and other service animals will be allowed inside most reception centers and mass care shelters.
- In many communities, SMART (the state of Massachusetts Animal Response Team) works with shelter teams to accommodate pets.
- Make plans ahead of time to take your pet to stay at relatives, friends or a kennel outside the affected area.
- Know pet-friendly hotels and motels.
- Prepare an emergency kit for your pets; include collars & leashes, a three-day supply of food, bowls, litter boxes, photographs, and a week's supply of medications that your pet may be taking.
- Make sure your pets wear collars with current license and rabies tags, and identification tags that include information on where you will be staying during the emergency.
- Use a pet carrier for each of your pets to make transportation easier.

