

Stay Informed

Before, during and after a disaster, it is critical that you listen for the most local, up-to-date information from emergency officials. Local media, Cityscreen Channel 12 (Cox channel 12) and eMAs, will convey instructions from local officials such as:

- Orders to evacuate
- Details about evacuation routes
- Locations of shelters
- How to safely stay where you are
- Where to find assistance
- Weather warnings and watches

Make sure your battery-powered radio is working in case the electricity goes out.

If children are in school during a disaster or emergency, check the local media for announcements about changes in school openings and closings. Parents can pick up their children during the school day, but sometimes the safest place for your children might be the school itself.

If Ordered to Evacuate

Take your emergency supplies kit.

Listen to your battery-powered radio or car radio, and use travel routes specified by local authorities. Don't use shortcuts – certain areas might be impassable or dangerous.

Implement your pet's evacuation plan. People who need special help or transportation during an evacuation should listen to local media for instructions about what to do during an evacuation.

If Instructed to Stay Where You Are

If local emergency officials tell you to "shelter-in-place" or stay where you are, you must remain in your home or office and protect yourself there.

Lock all windows and exterior doors, and close vents and fireplace dampers. Turn off all fans and heating and air-conditioning systems.

Get your emergency supplies kit, and make sure the battery-powered radio is working.

Go to an interior room without windows that is above ground level. Some chemicals are heavier than air and might seep into basements.

In case of contaminated air, use duct tape and plastic sheeting to seal all cracks around the door and any vents into the room. Include spaces around pipes.

Listen to the radio or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate.