

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

EVACUATION PLANS

There is always a chance after a major EARTHQUAKE or disaster, a secondary disaster, such as a gas or water main rupture may happen. The need to evacuate may become necessary in your immediate vicinity. Do you know the difference between a voluntary or mandatory evacuation and what you should do.

The main difference between a mandatory and voluntary evacuation is the level of enforcement and the urgency behind each directive:

1. **Mandatory Evacuation:** This is a legally required evacuation order. Authorities issue it when a situation is deemed too dangerous for people to stay, such as during severe natural disasters, like hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, or floods. People are legally obligated to leave the area, and failure to comply may result in legal consequences. Emergency services may also enforce mandatory evacuations by physically removing people if necessary.
2. **Voluntary Evacuation:** This is a recommendation rather than a legal requirement. Authorities suggest that residents evacuate because conditions may become dangerous or are already hazardous, but it's up to individuals to decide whether to leave. Voluntary evacuations often precede mandatory ones or are issued in less immediate or severe situations where the risk is not yet at a critical level.

In summary, mandatory evacuations are compulsory and enforced by law, while voluntary evacuations are recommendations and allow individuals to make their own decisions about whether to leave.

Having an EVACUATION PLAN

I Should Go

An evacuation plan gives you the security and sense of control in a a chaotic and frightening time if you are told to leave your home by the authorities at moments notice. In the event of a disaster, listen to the local news reports for updates and evacuation instructions. Never wait till the last moment to evacuate, follow all instructions for the evacuation procedure. Before you leave be sure to check on your family and neighbors that they are all taking the appropriate steps for their own safety.

CHECKLIST – The essential items you need to take:

- **Vital documents packet – this will ensure you have the all the important papers**
- **Emergency Supply Kit – Provides basic- living necessities for a few days**
- **Cash (\$250 in small denominations or more)**
- **Maps: evacuation route and alternate routes and list of nearby shelters**
- **Car keys and keys to the place you are going to (if applicable)**

GRAB AND GO CHECKLIST

If you have only moments before evacuating and haven't prepared a Vital Document Packet or any emergency supplies, grab these items and quickly go!

- **Drivers license or personal identification**
- **Basic supplies: water, food, first aid kit, hygiene items**
- **Prescription medications, glasses or contact lenses**
- **Maps: the official evacuation route, alternate routes, and a list of shelters**
- **Car keys and keys to the place you are going (if applicable)**
- **Cash (\$250 in small denominations or more)**

Note: Use travel routes specified by local authorities. Shortcuts could be impassable or dangerous.

SHELTER REALITIES

- **Provisions are likely to be limited, so plan to use your own supplies.**
- **Most public shelters do not accept pets – be prepared with the proper documentation, a pet photo with you and your pet, vaccination record including current rabies vaccine, their carrier and 72-hour disaster GO BAG.)**
- **Smoking, alcoholic beverages and weapons are prohibited.**
- **Expect and plan for confined and uncomfortable conditions.**