



# Evacuating your home? Take your **HEALTH** with you!

WILDLAND FIRE, FLOODS, AND  
EARTHQUAKES IN MONTANA MAY REQUIRE  
YOU TO EVACUATE YOUR HOME.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO REMEMBER:

## In the rare event that an evacuation is ordered . . . .

When an evacuation is ordered from emergency personnel, you must act fast and follow instructions. Pay attention to local officials who will give you special instructions to follow for the situation. Be ready and make sure you stay healthy during an evacuation by reading this information sheet and gathering a "go-kit" prior to any evacuation notice. You may be directed to a shelter area and given a specific route by which to leave your home. If you don't have your own vehicle, you can make arrangements with neighbors, friends, or family members. Volunteer organizations may also be assisting with transportation.



- Prescription medicines
- Spare glasses/contact lenses
- Health records and information
- Emergency contact information
- First aid kit
- Health provider contact information
- Necessary health equipment (wheel chair, oxygen, c-pap, etc.)
- Change of clothing
- Toiletries
- Bottled water and non-perishable food

**PLAN TO BRING ANY SPECIAL HEALTH ITEMS YOU, OR ANYONE IN YOUR CARE, MIGHT NEED. IF YOU HAVE A HELPER ANIMAL, BRING ITS FOOD AND ANY OTHER CARE ITEMS IT NEEDS.**

## Threats in Montana that may trigger an evacuation from your home



- Earthquake
- Wild land fire
- Chemical spill or explosion
- Flooding
- Severe Weather
- Other natural disaster

## Evacuation Pointers

- Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and the routes to use
- Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for coordinating an evacuation. Follow their directions promptly!
- You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware
- Listen to your radio for announcements from law enforcement/emergency personnel
- You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location
- Remember that evacuations may be restricted only to escorted convoys
- Pets are not allowed in shelters, so prepare alternatives for their care



## Returning Home

Officials will determine when it is safe for you to return to your home as soon as they consider it safe to do so and have made the area accessible.

When you do return home:

- Be aware of downed power lines and other hazards.
- Check natural gas or propane connections, regulators, and lines before turning gas on.
- Check your home for damage, rodents, or hidden embers or smoldering fires.

## Create a Family Communication Plan



A good communication plan provides a central role in keeping loved ones informed and in touch to help reduce anxiety at the time of, and immediately following, a disaster.

Establish a primary contact and number (preferably a relative or friend in another part of the region or out of state) who family members can call in case of emergencies. Every member of the family should know this number. In the event that family members are separated, it is also important that daycare, work, school, and neighbors know this number.

Prepare a list of phone numbers where each family member can be reached during the day. Include a list of relatives, friends and business associates that would or should know your whereabouts in case of emergency.

During disasters, phone communications may be disrupted. Provide an alternative means for making calls, such as a special 'emergency' calling card or cell phone.

It is important to be aware of other vehicles of communication such as the Internet, e-mail communication, and HAM radio. The Red Cross is also a resource to help contact loved ones. Leave a note at your residence to let others know where you are and how you can be contacted.

For local use / information