

Hello and welcome to Learning objective 15.

Emergency Evacuation

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News Footage

Florida Hurricane evacuation California Wildfire Evacuation Hawaii Volcano Evacuation

CNN & ABC

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As much as we will dislike the idea. At some point your home will become unsafe.

Your family will be in danger, and you will need to make a decision to move them away from the house.

The sooner you take action the smoother and safer your evacuation will be.

Wait too long and leaving may no longer be an option.



Three things needed to build your basic emergency evacuation plan.

Why do you need to evacuate?

Where are you going?

How do you plan on getting there?

This is your 80% solution. Once you have these defined along with the rest of your Emergency Action Plan, you can come back to polish it up.

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Why evacuate?

An evacuation is ordered because life threatening conditions are present or will be present. Run from water, hide from wind is a general rule of thumb. Earthquakes, Wildfires and Volcanos pose additional problems that need addressing.

Usually leaving is better than staying. If staying will cause risk to life or limb then leave. If staying will cut you off from needed resources then leave.

Years ago, I was conducting an inhouse Emergency Action Planning training program. One couple that was attending the training recounted a story about how they chose not to evacuate when told to do so. They told of their smug indifference to the neighbors who were hurriedly preparing to leave the neighborhood, even though there was no clear and apparent danger.

At some point after the storm they decided it would be best to leave. No power was available to their house and they needed air-conditioning. There egress was thwarted at all routes. Their neighborhood was sitting on an imperceptible bump on the ground. And all roads out were flooded and impassable.

If a mandatory evacuation order is given, in addition to communicating where lives are threatened, government is also communicating where emergency services (police, fire and emergency medical) will cease until the threat no longer exists.

If ordered to leave and you choose not to, make sure the local authorities have next-of-kin information. Your decision to remain in a mandatory evacuation zone is "YOURS".

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Work

School

Home

The odds of being together when the evacuation decision is made is unlikely, unless it's a hurricane, winter storm, wildfire etc.

Plans need to be made to assemble everyone or have predetermined locations where people will go to, to be collected prior to evacuation. Pre-

determined Rally Points will suit this need.

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There are two basic types of evacuations the first one is a planned evacuation.

Planned evacuation is similar to what happened during Hurricane Irma. I live in a mandatory evacuations zone.

A major hurricane that is a few days away I know I need to evacuate.

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If you are leaving your home for any extended period of time. You should prepare the house in such a way that any property damage will become negligible.

Turning power off, turning off the gas, closing curtains, and locking doors and windows, are just a few of the things that should be done.

You should probably speak with your home insurer to determine what needs to be done to your house prior to leaving.

Depending on the reason you're evacuating will also cause differing concepts of home preparation.

Flooding, fire, seismic activity will require differing strategies for home protection



In some instances, you may have a day or two to prepare for an evacuation while other situations may call for an immediate evacuation.

The need for an immediate evacuation could be caused by fast moving wildfires, chemical spill, an explosion, or your lackadaisical opinion about the need to evacuate.

You should research your hazard and risk assessment outline that you prepared learning objective five Risk Assessment.

This should help you identify what types of risks or hazards may cause an immediate evacuation where you live.

Reasons may include:
industrial accidents,
chemical spill
nuclear accident
traffic accidents, including train or
aviation accidents,
fire,
imminent nuclear war
structural failure
viral or biological outbreak
With any event.

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What are the risks associated with an evacuation? Planned or Immediate.

Besides the hazard you are evacuating from. The act of evacuation poses its own risks.

Accidents will cause the greatest amount of death and injury above and beyond the event you are running from.

People who are stressed out will not be thinking clearly. There action may pose a danger to themselves and those around them.

Refer to week three Learning objective Five for a recap of Risk Management information.

Identify the Hazard
Assess the Hazard
Develop controls and make risk
decisions
Implement controls
Supervise and evaluate.

Do not accept unrealistic risk.

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Yes, the music of your evacuation will sound so much better if planned and practiced.

Use the Emergency Evacuation Template to brainstorm the family evacuation plan.

As outlined in learning objective 10 a Table top and Map exercise are your best starting points for evacuation planning.



In learning objective nine you learned about rally points.

You mapped out and identified location that you and your family can go to, to be recovered or seek safety.

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Will a local family or friends house be suitable?

If so make an agreement that this is something that may happen.

If Bob is also evacuating, what is your alternate location?

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You only need to go far enough to remove yourself from immediate danger.

The farther away you go, the longer it will take to get back. Extreme distance will also demand the use of resources needed to make the trip.

Historically weather events such as Hurricanes and winter storms will affect multiple states.

Wildfires and Earthquakes have less of a destructive footprint.

The nature of the emergency you are evading will probable dictate the distance you will need to travel to get out of danger.

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10 square feet per person

Lack of privacy

On the upside they are available if you have nowhere else to go.

Pet friendly shelters probably have a registration process.

Some communities have shelters that can attend to the needs of individuals with ongoing medical issues. You will need to research these facilities.

Get out the POC list you completed earlier and call your physician, Office of Emergency Management and local Red Cross. They should know if these types of shelters are available and what the procedures are for registering to use them.

The only reason to go on a long road trip to evade the disaster is probably because you have adequate resources available wherever you are going.

Or your home is no longer there and you are now a refugee.

I know several people who chose to take the 300+ mile drive as opposed to staying in their homes during Hurricane Irma.

If you are interested it is approximately an eight-hour drive

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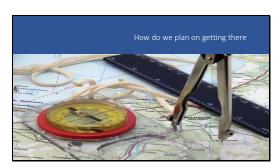


from my home to relatives in Atlanta, GA. This is on a regular day. Clear weather. Adequate services.

Days prior to Irma it was a 16-hour trip. The closer Irma got to Florida the trip took 24 hours. At some point it was no longer safe to be on the roads.

You will not be the only person on the road. If you are contemplating an extended trip, leave as early as you possible can.

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You should have mapped out as many ways as possible to extract yourself from the danger you are facing

North South East West

I know depending on your location all the compass directions may not be available to you.

Use a physical map. GPS may not be working



Conduct periodic inspections on the serviceability of your Car, SUV, Truck, RV, etc.

Download, print and review the below Auto Inspection Checklist for each of your vehicles.

This is kind of important if you are fleeing the effects of a disaster.

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All states have evacuation routes. They are marked by the round blue sigh that says Evacuation Route.

Since you have already planned your route, unless you were forced off the main route you should be fine.
Remember the six P's

Prior planning prevents piss poor performance.

It would also be prudent to be tuned into the local/regional radio stations that will be updating evacuation information.

Portable NOAA radios may also be of assistance.

The bottom line is that this is something you should practice. Make it a weekend road trip.

Locate the fuel and services on your route



That's right pack a bag for each member of the party.

Clean cloths will be valuable wherever you end up at.

Make a list for each individual.

If you pre-pack or pre-stock evacuation locations. These items will need to be evaluated over time.

Clothing sizes change, especially with children.

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You have reviewed the three-things needed to put together an Emergency Evacuation Plan.

Why are you evacuating?

Where are you going?

And how are you going to get there?

We have briefly discussed the risks involved with evacuating.

And the need to plan and practice your evacuation.

Till Next time be safe.