



# EVACUATIONS FROM ARMY INSTALLATIONS

In emergencies, regional and installation emergency management organizations implement established plans and procedures to facilitate the safe evacuation or movement of personnel and their families to designated safe havens or civilian shelters. These procedures ensure timely warnings for individuals on the installation. For overseas installations, additional protocols are in place to assist personnel off-base, particularly in areas where local governments may lack the necessary capabilities.

When circumstances allow, the preferred course of action for nonessential and nonemergency personnel is evacuation. This process directs those at risk to leave the affected area via designated routes and transportation methods.

## **Evacuation Procedures**

Evacuation procedures outline available transportation networks and their capacities, focusing on the carrying capacity of designated evacuation routes and identifying potential bottlenecks due to traffic or natural events, such as flooding. It is crucial to recognize that severe weather, earthquakes, and other hazards may impede or entirely disrupt certain transportation methods, including bridges, ferries, tunnels, and public transit systems. During specific emergencies, particularly those involving flooding, high winds, aftershocks, or volcanic activity—emergency broadcasts may prohibit the use of travel trailers, campers, motor homes, buses, motorcycles, bicycles, and boats.

Post-evacuation, it is essential to account for all members of the Army community to ensure safety and effective distribution of support services and public assistance. If the scale of the evacuation complicates assembly, electronic “rally points” (such as phone numbers or websites) will be established for accountability.

## **How to Prepare**

Effective evacuation requires proactive planning, as advance warning may not be available. Follow these steps:

- **Identify Evacuation Routes:** Use the primary evacuation route recommended by your installation and plan alternative routes. Keep appropriate maps in your emergency supply kit.
- **Transportation Arrangements:** If you lack access to a vehicle, arrange alternative transportation in advance.
- **Pet Considerations:** Determine if pets can accompany you to remote safe havens or civilian shelters, as regulations may vary. Service animals are always permitted in civilian shelters. Microchip or clearly tag pets, and prepare a small emergency kit.

for them, including food, water, a leash, medication, veterinary documents, a photo, and a toy. Allow extra time to secure your pets during an emergency, as they may become frightened.

- **Special Needs:** Consider specific needs of your family when developing your plan.

### **Actions to Take During an Evacuation**

- **Travel Efficiently:** Plan to use one vehicle to minimize congestion and delays.
- **Fuel Up:** Maintain a full gas tank, as power outages or heavy traffic may hinder refueling.
- **Emergency Kit:** Prepare an emergency supply kit sufficient for at least three days.
- **Dress Appropriately:** Wear sturdy shoes and clothing, such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and a cap.
- **Secure Your Home:** Close and lock all doors and windows and unplug nonessential electrical devices. Keep refrigerators and freezers plugged in unless flooding is imminent.
- **Stay Informed:** Use a battery-powered radio or TV to receive local evacuation updates.
- **Evacuate Promptly:** Leave the hazard area as directed to avoid becoming trapped or stranded.
- **Communicate Your Plans:** Inform others of your destination or leave a note indicating where you are going.
- **Follow Designated Routes:** Adhere to recommended evacuation routes and zones; shortcuts may be blocked.
- **Be Cautious:** Remain vigilant for damaged or missing roads, bridges, and structures, and avoid downed power lines.
- **Report Your Status:** Once safe, military personnel, government civilians, and members of the selective reserves should report to their command and <https://adpaas.army.mil/>.

### **Where to Find Additional Information**

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/evacuation>
- Occupational Safety & Health Administration:  
<https://www.osha.gov/etools/evacuation-plans-procedures>
- Ready Army: [www.army.mil/ready](http://www.army.mil/ready)

**It's up to you. Prepare strong. Develop an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen. These fact sheets are intended to supplement predetermined plans and policies. Follow state, local, installation and command guidance related to threats and hazards.**

