Emergency evacuation is the immediate and urgent movement of people away from the threat or actual occurrence of a hazard. Evacuations are more common than many people realize. Fires and floods cause evacuations most frequently across the U.S. and almost every year, people along coastlines evacuate as hurricanes approach.

**Things To Know When Evacuating**

**Notification – What is the emergency?**
- Know who your workplace floor monitor is (refer to the Department Evacuation plan, Appendix F of the Emergency Operations Plan).
- Subscribe to OSU Alert or alert systems.

**Exit finding – Where is the way out?**
- Know at least two escape routes from your location.
- Look around, the closest safest exit may not be the door you came in.

**Assistance – Do I need help to get out?**
- Know the location of escape equipment.
- If you use an elevator, know where the stairs are.

**Before an Evacuation**

- Learn the types of emergencies that are likely in your area and review emergency, evacuation, and shelter plans.
- Make a plan
  - Identify how you will leave and where you will go.
  - Be familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
  - Develop a communication and re-unification plan.
- Assemble supplies in a “go bag” that is ready for evacuation.
- Tips:
  - Always follow instructions of local officials.
  - Find a place to stay that accepts pets.

**During an Evacuation**

- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Take your emergency supply kit.
- If time allows:
  - Call the contact in your communication plan.
  - Secure your home by closing and locking all windows and doors.
- Tips:
  - Wear sturdy shoes and protective clothing.
  - Follow recommended evacuation routes.
  - Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.
  - Be alert for road hazards.

**After an Evacuation**

- Return home only when safe to do so by checking with local officials both where you are staying and at home.
- Use caution when you return home. Walk the perimeter of your home before going inside and check for downed electrical wires, gas smells, or loose debris.
- Tips:
  - Depending on the type of emergency, it may not be safe to drink tap water.
  - When in doubt, throw it out. Food and drinks in your fridge or freezer may have gone bad due to a power outage or exposure to heat, smoke, or chemicals.
  - Let friends and family know you are safe.

*For more information please visit Ready.gov*