The likelihood that you and your pets will survive an emergency such as a fire, flood, or earthquake is directly related to your level of emergency planning. Whether you decide to stay in place or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what is best for you is also typically best for your pets.

How To Prepare

• Make sure pets are wearing a collar at all times.
• Have cell phone number on pet’s tag.
• Consider microchipping your animal.
• Make sure vaccinations are current.
• Create a Disaster Kit
  − Food/water for at least 5 days
  − Bowls and can opener, if necessary
  − Medications and medical records
  − First-aid kit with first-aid book
  − Animal waste disposal bags
  − Sturdy leash, harness, or carrier
  − Current photo of pet with description
  − Detailed written instructions for care
  − Vet’s phone number

If You Stay Home

• If you must stay home to wait out a storm or disaster, find a safe place in your home where you can all stay together and make it pet-friendly.
• Close off unsafe areas where frightened pets may hide.
• Move dangerous items such as tools or toxic products from the area.
• If you have a room you can designate as the “safe room”, put emergency supplies there.

If You Evacuate

• If it is not safe for you, it is not safe for your pet; take them with you when you leave.
• Evacuate early: do not wait for a mandatory evacuation order. You may be required to leave your pet behind if you wait to be evacuated by emergency officials.
• Evacuating before conditions become dangerous and stressful will help keep your pet calm and safe.

After The Disaster

• Do not allow pets to roam loose. Familiar landmarks could have changed and your pet may get lost.
• While you assess home damage, keep animal on a leash or in a carrier so that they do not escape if the house is damaged.
• Keep pets away from disaster sites. Paws, feet, noses, and airways could be damaged from the dust, hazardous materials, and debris common to post-disaster sites.
• Do not let your pet eat or drink something unless you are sure it is safe.
• Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Help them get back into their normal routine.
• Be alert for wild animals that may have sought refuge in your house or yard. Be aware of the potential threat they pose.

For more information please visit Ready.gov