

DO YOU STAY OR DO YOU GO?

Once you have a plan, you need accurate information to make good decisions. As dangerous weather develops, **stay tuned to a local radio or television station** for up to date weather information.



These stations will also carry emergency broadcasts from local authorities with potentially life saving information and instructions.

In most cases of severe weather, evacuation is optional. If you are not required to evacuate, **sheltering in place is sometimes the best choice!**

However, if you have special needs or are located in a vulnerable area, evacuation may be best.

Regardless of where you live, **obey the instructions of local authorities!**

USEFUL INFORMATION

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston
www.gayswitchboardhouston.org
713.529.3211

*The following resources may help
you make an effective plan:*

**FEMA (Federal Emergency
Management Authority)**
www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtm

CDC (Centers for Disease Control)
www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes

**Texas Department of Safety
Division of Emergency Management**
[http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/
weather_aware_hurricane.htm](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/weather_aware_hurricane.htm)

City of Houston Disaster Plan
<http://www.houstontx.gov/health/osphp/>

Houston Red Cross
www.houstonredcross.org
713.526.8300 (non-emergency calls)

NATURAL DISASTERS

ARE YOU PREPARED?



401 Branard St., 2nd Floor
Houston, Texas 77006

713.529.0037

www.montrosecounselingcenter.org



MAKE A PLAN!

Different disasters need different responses. For most natural disasters, there are simple precautions you may take ahead of time.



If you decide to evacuate, where will you go? How will you get there? What do you need to take with you?

If you decide to stay (*shelter in place*), do you have what you need in order to wait out the disaster?

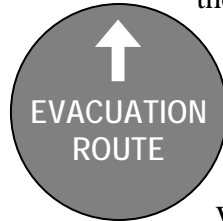
As you are making your plan, **consult your local authorities about evacuation zones**. To find out if you are located in a hurricane evacuation zone, you may check the following website:

www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/Hurricanemaps/GalvestonStudyAreaMap.pdf

Also, if you have pets or small children, be sure to consider their needs when making your plan.

WHAT TO PREPARE

Because natural disasters are unpredictable, it is a good idea to **know at least two different ways out of town**. Roads may be flooded, washed out, or blocked by traffic or the authorities.



If you have to evacuate, you may not be able to return for some time.

Whether you evacuate or shelter in place, severe weather may destroy valuables, including important records and documents. To avoid problems either way, **prepare an essential "emergency kit,"** ready to grab and go on a moment's notice:

- a map (in case pre-planned evacuation routes are blocked)
- insurance papers
- residency papers, if applicable
- birth certificates
- leases, original utility bills
- social security card
- passports and/or drivers licenses
- health care documents
- legal documents, powers of attorney, wills, etc.

Beyond documents, your emergency kit should also include the following:

- at least one week of prescriptions and paper copies of all prescriptions if possible
- cash for at least 1 week
- phone card

WHAT TO PREPARE (cont'd)

- 3 days of Meals Ready to Eat
- at least 3 gallons of water per person
- a well-stocked first aid kit (not just band-aids!)
- battery-operated radio
- flashlight
- extra batteries for radio & flashlight or crank generated radio/flashlight (no batteries required)
- 3 light sticks
- 1 clean T-shirt & 1 pair of clean socks and underwear per person
- 2 large plastic garbage bags
- small sunscreen, insect repellent
- travel-size soap (doubles as shampoo), toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant
- heavy, leather-palmed, work gloves
- laminated/waterproof contact info for friends and family
- wet wipes, 2 small packages of tissue
- 1 thermal blanket



- 2 dust masks
- multi-function pocket knife
- duct tape

This emergency kit is helpful whether you are evacuating or sheltering in place. However, some disasters need **special preparations**:

- for high winds – pre-cut plywood to cover windows with pre-drilled holes
- for rising water – raise valuables to higher location