

**SEE & SAVE Hurricane Checklist #3**

# IF YOU ARE EVACUATING

## *Planning for your family*

- ❑ **Plan where to stay.** If possible, stay with family or friends or at a low-rise inland hotel/motel outside of flood zones. Leave early to avoid heavy traffic, roads blocked by early flood waters, and bridges that may become impassable due to high winds.
- ❑ **Disconnect all utilities and appliances.**
- ❑ **Have an evacuation route mapped out.** Monitor local news publications and television stations for the best route(s) to take from your area.
- ❑ **Make arrangements for pets or livestock.** Public shelters do not allow pets. Hotels/motels may make exceptions during severe weather, but call ahead to be sure.
- ❑ **All special-needs persons**, defined as those without transportation and/or with medical issues, are urged to register with their county or city emergency management before a hurricane emergency by calling 211. For more information about the Texas 2-1-1 transportation program, see <https://www.211texas.org/211/hurricane/alert/do>.
- ❑ **Hurricane shelters will be available** for people who have no other place to go. Shelters may be crowded and uncomfortable with no privacy and no electricity. Do not leave your home for a shelter until government officials announce on radio/TV that a particular shelter is open.

### **WHAT TO BRING TO A SHELTER**

- ◆ first aid kit ◆ medicines ◆ baby food and diapers ◆ cards, games, books
- ◆ toiletries ◆ battery-powered radio ◆ extra batteries ◆ flashlights ◆ blankets, pillows, sleeping bags ◆ identification ◆ valuable papers (insurance, etc.)
- ◆ cash ◆ fully charged cell phone, if you have one.

*(See back of page for pet instructions.)*

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SPOTLIGHT

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## ***Preparing your pet for evacuation***

- ❑ Do not leave your pets behind if you evacuate. Pets cannot survive on their own, and you may not be able to find them when you return to your home.
- ❑ An up-to-date identification tag should be fastened securely to your pet's collar. If possible, also include the address/telephone number of the site where you are going. Carry a photo of your pet for identification purposes.
- ❑ Have a secure pet carrier, leash, or harness for your pets so they won't escape.
- ❑ Call ahead to your destination (hotel/motel) to be sure they accept pets. Many managers will work with you on this policy during times of severe weather. For reasons of public health, most emergency shelters will not accept pets.
- ❑ If you and your pet cannot stay together after you evacuate, contact friends, family, veterinarians, and boarding kennels in safe areas to arrange for foster care. Send medicine, medical records, food, feeding information, and other supplies with your pet.
- ❑ Pack a week's worth of food for both you and your pet. If you have a cat, you'll need litter and a litter pan. Also, remember to take a can opener, food dishes, and any medication your pet might need.
- ❑ Don't wait until the last minute to evacuate if you have animals. Once the disaster is imminent and the only way out is by official rescue transport, emergency officials may not allow you to take your pets when they bring you out.
- ❑ Keep a list of emergency phone numbers (vet, animal control, Red Cross, etc.) accessible.