

# GUIDE TO EVACUATION LEVELS

## A QUICK RESOURCE GUIDE

Local law enforcement and Flathead County Office of Emergency Service (FCOES) have prepared a comprehensive disaster response plan to deal with emergencies and disasters. To help FCOES and local law enforcement agencies/fire departments in the event of an emergency, it is important you and your family know what the evacuation level terms mean, and know how to react.

Remember, the best way to prepare for disaster in the Flathead Valley is: **Prepare your Home, Make a Kit, Have a Plan, and Be informed.**

**STAGE 1: Pre-Evacuation Contact** -- during Stage 1 contact teams will go door-to-door whenever possible to provide accurate information about the emergency and to determine special needs of those contacted, i.e., special health problems, latch-key kids, special transportation needs.

**STAGE 2: Evacuation Warning** -- There is a good probability of the need to evacuate. Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, and monitor local media outlets for information. Begin preparations for a possible evacuation.

**STAGE 3: Evacuation Request** -- This level indicates there is significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the effected area, or if choosing to remain, to be ready to leave at a moment's notice.

**STAGE 4: Evacuation Order** -- Danger to your area is current or imminent, and you should leave immediately. Listen to local media, and watch for emergency personnel who may be coming by to give further instructions regarding the evacuation.

**STAGE 5:** -- Perimeter roadblocks are maintained and evacuated area(s) patrolled 24 hours a day. Regular incident status briefings are provided for evacuees at pre-designated sites.

**STAGE 6:** -- Evacuees are allowed to return. Hardship and special needs are evaluated.

During evacuations, the Flathead County Chapter of the American Red Cross will establish shelters at schools, churches, or community buildings in safe zones. Listen to local media for information on the location of a shelter. Above all, remain calm.

Preparing your home in advance for disaster, having a kit, making a plan, and remaining informed means you can make informed and calculated decisions for your family, and you know your escape routes in advance.

**PRINT AND KEEP A COPY IN YOUR HOME, CAR, OFFICE  
AND WITH YOUR KIT**

For more information call 406-758-5560

# Emergency Evacuation Checklist

*(Items should be stored in easy-to-carry container such as a backpack, duffle bag or plastic storage bin)*

## Medicines

### First Aid Kit

### Important Documents

- Mortgage
- Insurance
- Birth certificates
- Social Security Cards
- Wills
- Tax Information
- Bank Information
- List of family physicians
- List of important family information, such as style and serial number of medical devices like pacemakers
- Video or picture inventory of household items

### Cash/Checkbook

### Clothing and Bedding

- At least one complete change of clothing and sturdy shoes per person;
- Blanket or sleeping bag per person

### Water

- 1 gallon/ day/ person (Keep at least a 3-day supply in your house)
- Water purification kit or bleach

### Food

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables; canned juices; soup; food for infants, elderly persons or persons on special diets;
- Non-electric can opener or utility knife

### Irreplaceable Items

### Supplies and Special Items

- Extra pair of eyeglasses or contacts
- Extra house and car keys
- Battery operated radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Mess kits, or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Anti-bacterial hand wipes of gel
- Personal hygiene items such as toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, etc..
- Toilet paper, towelettes

### Pets

- Pet food, water and feeding bowls
- Carrier, leash, bedding
- Vaccination records