

# What to do if you need to leave during an emergency? (Audio Transcript)

During an emergency, you may need to evacuate or leave your home and go to a safer place.

If you need to leave, consider these tips:

Take your emergency kit and any important items and supplies.

Keep information about your health needs with you. If you have a medical alert tag, remember to wear it.

If you use a smartphone, consider also adding information about your health needs using the device's medical ID feature.

Inform emergency shelter workers of your disability-related needs when you arrive and explain how others can best assist you.

If you need accessible transportation, prepare now.

Find out who provides emergency transportation in your area and create a list of accessible options based on your disability-related needs.

Remember, even if you plan for accessible transportation, it may not be available in an emergency.

You can also find emergency resources by ZIP code with the resource locator from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Lastly, remember you still have rights during an emergency.

People with disabilities have the right to live safely in the community with emergency plans and support systems in place.

Emergency shelters must be accessible for people with disabilities and allow service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Also, some shelters may be considered residences under certain circumstances and will allow emotional support animals. Check with the shelter you plan to go to and verify if they consider themselves a residence and fall under the Fair Housing Amendments Act.

Emergencies can happen fast and without any warning, but you can prepare for them.

Use these tips to start planning now, to prepare for the future.