



Mason County Division of Emergency Management

Evacuation and Sheltering

Do you Know When to Relocate or Evacuate?

In times of major disaster events, such as earthquakes, you and your family should be prepared to leave your home or workplace and seek public shelter if:

- You are told by your local police, sheriff's office or fire department to evacuate. Listen to your local radio or TV for evacuation announcements.
- Your home or workplace becomes unsafe due to changing conditions – like rising flood waters or fire. If possible, leave as soon as the problem becomes apparent and before a crisis.
- You or your family are away from your home (e.g. dining out, shopping, at the movies, attending a sports event, etc.) and road conditions or other hazards prevent your being able to return to your home.

What to do When You Need to Relocate or Evacuate

As part of your emergency planning and preparation you and your family should:

- Choose several evacuation destinations, depending upon the type of event.
- Know the routes to several local hospitals/clinics.
- Keep at least a half tank of gas in your vehicle at all times.

- Call your local Red Cross, emergency management office, police, sheriff's office or fire department for the location of your nearest public shelter. If you have pets, ask authorities what options you have for sheltering your pets.

Emergency Shelters

Shelters are set up to take in displaced persons during a disaster event. Emergency sheltering guidelines are established by the American Red Cross. Mason County has a working relationship with the Red Cross in shelter planning.

In the event Mason County and the Red Cross establishes an emergency shelter for disaster victims, information on the location, hours of operations and rules will be made available on the DEM website and distributed via local media (TV, radio, newspaper).

Shelter-in-Place

There are many reasons why Shelter-in-Place should be the first option during emergencies. In many circumstances, individuals in areas not directly at risk will be asked to Shelter-in-Place, usually at home, school, or work. This option is also used when the outside environment is too dangerous for safe travel.

For more information on evacuation and sheltering visit the website:

- READY.gov at <http://www.ready.gov/shelter> and <http://www.ready.gov/evacuating-yourself-and-your-family>
- American Red Cross at <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/workplace/commuter-safety>

Contact the Mason County Division of Emergency Management (DEM) at 360-427-7535 or fax 360-427-7756 for more information.

