

# Evacuation and escape

There is a concept among preppers known as “Bugging Out.” Today’s preppers use the term to describe an evacuation process to be executed when the current abode becomes too dangerous to stay put or uninhabitable.

The likelihood of evacuation in our area is due to the threat of seasonal storms, flooding, wildfires on forestland and the dreaded “Big One” — the large-scale earthquake that could cause a tsunami along the entire Pacific Coast.

Preparation plans should include how to get your family and supplies out of town on short notice. Or as preppers say, “Out of Dodge.”

Living in rural Oregon, there are several things to your advantage. The relatively sparse population is far more self-sufficient and more good-neighbor minded than big city folks.

What do you do if your neighborhood is being evacuated? You have two hours to gather your things and go to a safer location. On the coast, that means high ground out of the tsunami zones. There are several community meeting sites, such as Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., but know the site closest to you. Resources are available at [www.wleog.org](http://www.wleog.org).

Don’t panic about where you should go, or who packs what. Panic can set in if you do not have a plan in place. So gather your household and hand them each their “but out” assignments — decided on ahead of time when you determine an evacuation route, likely by foot. With the evacuation underway, you and your loved ones will make an

orderly retreat to your gathering place.

The experts tell us there are three levels of evacuation:

### Level 1: Be ready.

Residents are encouraged to move livestock and pets out of the area. Evacuation is voluntary at this point.

### Level 2: Residents are ordered to leave soon.

Roads are usually closed and entry to evacuated areas may be denied. Residents may have time to gather necessary items, but will do so at their own risk.

### Level 3: Go now.

This is an order to leave immediately, that imminent danger exists and there is no time to gather personal belongings.

Some evacuations are handled by giving the residents a sheet of paper containing some instructions. This can include the five “P’s” — People and Pets (and other livestock), Papers (important documents), Prescriptions, including hearing aids, eyeglasses and medications, Photographs, so your memories are preserved, and last is your Personal Computer. There is often invaluable, irreplaceable data on your hard drive.

Of course, having a complete 72-hour kit at the ready is going to ease the task of what to take. As always, having a plan in place will eliminate a whole lot of confusion when the time comes to evacuate. When you have a plan, the panic factor, not to mention the stress on everyone, is greatly diminished.

Just keep in mind: The time to prepare is now, before there is an emergency.

For more information on evacuation, safety and disaster preparedness, go to:

American Red Cross:  
[redcross.org](http://redcross.org)

City of Florence: [ci.florence.or.us](http://ci.florence.or.us)

Department of Geology and  
Mineral Industries:  
[oregongeology.org](http://oregongeology.org)

Lane County: [lanecounty.org](http://lanecounty.org)

Oregon Office of Emergency  
Management: [oregon.gov/oem](http://oregon.gov/oem)

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue:  
[svfr.org](http://svfr.org)

West Lane Emergency  
Operations Group: [www.wleog.org](http://www.wleog.org)  
[WesternLaneAmbulance.com](http://WesternLaneAmbulance.com)

## CENTRAL COAST

To view tsunami evacuation maps and information for your region, go to [oregongeology.org/tsuclearinghouse/pubs-evacbro.htm](http://oregongeology.org/tsuclearinghouse/pubs-evacbro.htm)



COURTESY MAP