Disaster Planning for Cat Owners

Ready Your Cat

- Make sure your cat is wearing ID tags with your most up-to-date contact information.
- Microchip your cat as a more permanent form of identification—in case collars or tags come off.
- Train your cat to feel comfortable going into a crate with regular in-crate sessions with treats.
- Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster. Pets can become disoriented and wander away from home in a crisis.

Prepare Your Home

- Ideally, you should evacuate with your pet, but if you are unable to do so, a rescue alert sticker placed near your front door will let first responders know that you have a cat inside your home.
- If sheltering in place, consider these things when choosing your safe room:
  - » Be aware of hazards such as windows, flying debris, etc.
  - » Utility rooms, bathrooms and unfinished basements may be easier to clean if your pet has an accident.
  - » Having a supply of fresh water is particularly important. In areas that may lose electricity, fill up bathtubs and sinks ahead of time to ensure that you have access to water during a power outage or other crises.
  - » In the event of flooding, go to the highest location in your home, or a room that has access to counters or high shelves where your animals can take shelter.

Locate a Temporary Caregiver

(if your cat cannot stay with you after you evacuate)

- Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities.
- Ask your local animal shelter if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets.
- Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet.



Create an Emergency Kit

- Obtain a crate that comfortably fits your cat, write your cat's name and your contact information on a piece of duct tape and stick it on the outside of the crate in case you become separated from your cat.
- Make a portable emergency kit that includes the following:
  - » Medical records
  - » Water *(7 days' worth of bottled)*
  - » Water bowls
  - » Pet food *(3-7 days' worth of canned food with pop tops or dry food)*
  - » Pet's medications
  - » Disposable litter trays *(aluminum roasting pans work well)*
  - » Litter or paper toweling
  - » Litter scooper
  - » Pet first aid kit
  - » Dish soap and disinfectant
  - » Disposable garbage bags for clean-up
  - » Extra collar
  - » Flashlight
  - » Blanket
  - » Pillow case *(as an alternative to a cat carrier)*
  - » Recent photos of your cat *(hard copy in case your phone dies)*
  - » Toys

Consider putting the kit inside the crate and storing near an exit.