
SUBJECT: EVACUATION PROCEDURES FOR RESIDENTS

ADOPTED DATE: MARCH 15, 2010

PAGE 1 OF 2

This policy sets forth criteria to use during disaster emergency evacuations.

Evacuation Notices:

If an evacuation is necessary, Cass County will issue one of the following evacuation notices:

1. Immediate Evacuation Alert:
It is necessary for residents to evacuate immediately as there is an imminent threat of a public emergency. This will be issued for immediate threats with an expected time frame of zero to six hours. Notifications will be through all available means, warning sirens, door-to-door notification, Code Red and media outlets. (An Immediate Evacuation Alert could be specific to a target population or location.)
2. Evacuation Advisory:
Residents are encouraged to evacuate as there is a significant potential threat of a public emergency. This will be issued when the expected timeframe for the threat is six to 48 hours. Notification will be through Code Red and media outlets. (An evacuation advisory could be specific to a target population or location.)

Evacuation Guidelines:

1. Secure your home as necessary:
 - Close and lock doors and windows.
 - Plug drains.
 - Turn off water at the water meter.
 - Do not turn off electricity; make sure freezers, refrigerators and sump pumps are plugged in.
 - Do not turn off natural gas, it is important that your home stays warm and does not freeze.
 - Leave a note on your front door with contact information (such as a cell phone number). Cass County Government does not have a database to track homes that have been vacated, so do not call the county.
2. Pet Safety:
 - Do not leave pets at home when you evacuate.
 - If you evacuate to a shelter, make plans for your pet, not all shelters take pets.
3. Ensure neighbors are aware of alert.

SUBJECT: EVACUATION PROCEDURES FOR RESIDENTS

ADOPTED DATE: MARCH 15, 2010

PAGE 2 OF 2

4. Evacuated areas will be secured by police or National Guard. Access to vacated areas will be controlled to ensure that unauthorized individuals will not be permitted in the area.

5. Listen to local officials:
 - Listen to media outlets for information from local officials.
 - If the imminent threat that caused the evacuation can be stabilized so your neighborhood remains protected, you may be permitted to return to your home.
 - Vulnerable populations including the elderly, disabled, small children and those unable to self evacuate, may not be permitted to return to an area that still has a potential threat (such as neighborhoods behind contingency levees).
 - When you do return to your home, be prepared to provide documentation showing that you do reside in the previously evacuated area. If you cannot demonstrate that you reside in a previously evacuated area, you will not be allowed to enter. Documentation may include a driver's license or utility bill.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE DATE: MARCH 15, 2010