

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS 101: STAY OR GO

EVACUATION AND SHELTER-IN-PLACE PREPAREDNESS

Determining When to Evacuate

Evacuation or Shelter-in-Place? Evacuation is required when there is a hazard to you or your family if you stay in your home. It is appropriate to Shelter-in-Place when there is a hazard to you or your family if you leave your home.

Getting Information On Evacuations

Have multiple ways of getting information about the hazards and weather-specific to your area. [Nocoalert.org](https://www.nocoalert.org) is the countywide emergency alert system. This is a dedicated website for community members to get information about and sign up for emergency alerts. Please remain informed and stay alert! NEVER WAIT FOR OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION TO TAKE ACTION.

Shelter-in-Place

Appropriate when a hazard exists outside the home and staying inside is the safest option. Sheltering in place would be appropriate when there is a blizzard, winter storm, or flood washed roads, essentially when there is a danger if you leave your home.

Rule of Thumb for Shelter-in-Place: Have enough supplies for everyone in the family for at least one week. This includes pets, service animals, and large animals.

Shelter-in-Place Considerations

- Building a Preparedness Kit, think of the supplies you need in your home and where those supplies are located. At least a week's worth of food and 1 gallon of water for each person/animal per day.
- Check with your pharmacy for an extended medication supply. Multiple days supply of medical equipment such as oxygen or other medical equipment that is a life-safety related.
- Include food, water, and medications for pets, service animals, livestock, and large animals.



4872 Endeavor Drive
Johnstown, CO 80534
larimer.org/emergency

Evacuations

Evacuation is needed when there is a hazard to you or your family if you stay in your home. Larimer County has two types of evacuation orders:

1. Voluntary evacuation – Gives people time to evacuate when there is time.
 - Anyone with special considerations should evacuate. This may include:
 - ⇒ Unable to self-evacuate and need assistance
 - ⇒ People with disabilities or people who need additional time to evacuate
 - ⇒ Large vehicles such as RVs, Trailers with large animals and slower vehicles
2. Mandatory evacuation—Issued when there is no time and you must move immediately for your safety. Do not pack, do not wait. Evacuate!

Planning for Evacuation

- Plan for what you will need to take with you, know what you will need to take in your vehicle for you, your family safety. Plan ahead for important documents to be stored outside the home, create medication lists and have cash on hand.
- Plan how you will leave and where you will go. Use main roads and NOT off roads or jeep trails to evacuate, unless it is the only way out.
- Plan for sheltering with friends or family outside the hazard area.
- Plan for notifying friends and family once safe and out of the hazard area to avoid overwhelming the local phone systems during the emergency.

Other Scenarios

Power Outage:

A power outage scenario can happen in events like a winter storm or blizzard. It is important to be prepared with non-power supplies. Supplies such as a battery operated weather radio to get updates and information, flashlights and batteries, a manual can opener if using canned food, other kitchen items, and even a camping stove works when necessary.

Hazardous Materials :

Shelter-in-place or evacuation will depend on the hazardous material or chemical. In this case instructions will be provided with the emergency notifications about key actions to take and whether it is best to evacuate or shelter-in-place.

