

Evacuating— Why Dialysis Patients Need to Follow Evacuation Orders



It's important for individuals and families to develop an emergency response plan to minimize damage before, during, and after an emergency. That also means coming up with an evacuation plan, should local authorities ask you to leave your home to find a safe location until the event passes. However, if you choose to remain in an evacuation zone, keep this in mind:

- Emergency officials may not be able to reach you to provide aid or assistance for over 72 hours.
- Nearby dialysis facilities may also be evacuated and unable to provide treatment.
- Dialysis treatments may be difficult to access for an extended period of time.
- Transportation to dialysis treatment will be unavailable within the evacuation area.
- You may be putting you and your family's health and safety at risk.

Planning is vital to making sure that you can evacuate quickly and safely no matter what the circumstances.

- Learn the types of disasters that are likely in your community.
- Always follow the instructions of local officials.
- Plan how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate.
- Check with local officials about what special needs shelters are available for this year.
- Identify several places you could go in an emergency, such as a friend's home in another town or a motel. Make sure your plan includes your pets.
- Be familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
- Share your evacuation plans with your dialysis provider.
- Gather supplies that are ready for evacuation. Prepare a "go-bag."
- If you have a car:
 - Keep a full tank of gas if an evacuation seems likely. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages.
 - Make sure you have a portable emergency kit in the car.

If you evacuated for the emergency, check with local officials both where you're staying and back home to determine when you are allowed to safely return home.

Being prepared for emergencies is a serious matter for dialysis and kidney transplant patients. If you need support before a natural disaster hits your community, contact one of the Patient Hotlines found here: www.kcercoalition.com/patients/patient-hotlines.



**Kidney Community
Emergency Response**

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