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 (at least 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.