

## CREATE A FAMILY-DISASTER PLAN

When a disaster strikes, there may not be much time to act. Preparing now for an emergency will give you and your family time to react safely and in a well thought-out manner. A plan of action for you and your family can go a long way toward reducing potential suffering from any type of disaster that could strike. A few tips to preparing a family-disaster plan include:

- Plans should be kept simple. The best emergency plans are those that are easy to remember.
- If you must evacuate your home, it is always best to take your pets with you.
- Be familiar with escape routes in case you need to evacuate your neighborhood. Plan several escape routes for different situations. Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster. Instruct household members to turn on the radio or television for emergency information.
- Select one calling point, possibly a friend or relative, where family members can contact, if they are separated from the rest of the family.
- Learn and post emergency phone numbers and information.
- Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- Stock a disaster-supply kit.
- Plan for your pets.

## STOCK A DISASTER-SUPPLY KIT

When a disaster strikes, it may not leave your family much time to prepare. After a disaster, local emergency officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but they will not be able to reach everyone immediately. It could take hours or even days before help can get to your neighborhood. Preparing a disaster supply kit will help your family better cope with the situation. Some necessary items in every disaster supply kit include:

- One gallon of water per person for five days
- Enough non-perishable food for the household for at least five days
- A non-electric can opener; cooking tools and fuel; paper plates & towels; and plastic utensils & cups
- Toiletries, such as toothpaste and brush; deodorant and soap; shaving equipment; personal hygiene supplies; shampoo; wash cloth and towel; and toilet paper
- Garbage bags, resealable plastic bags and tarps
- Supplies for infants, including diapers and formula
- Supplies for senior citizens, including special dietary considerations and incontinence pads
- At least a two-week supply of prescribed family medicines, as well as a typical first-aid kit with bandages, antibiotic cream, headache medicine and antacids
- Blankets, pillows, extra clothing
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio, HDTV and flashlight; and extra batteries
- A waterproof container with extra cash and important documents, such as insurance, bank account and Social Security cards
- A list of important phone numbers including the family's local pharmacy, doctors and designated contacts the family can call in case of an emergency
- Camera to record damage to property
- Rain gear and hard sole shoes
- Cleaning supplies and equipment
- Pet supplies including food water and medicines

# LEARNING ABOUT PETS & DISASTERS

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LAKE COUNTY  
FLORIDA

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

425 W. Alfred St., Tavares, Florida 32778-7800

Phone: 352-343-9420

Fax: 352-343-9728

Email: [disasterready@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:disasterready@lakecountyfl.gov) or  
[alertlake@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:alertlake@lakecountyfl.gov)

Web: [www.lakecountyfl.gov](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov), keyword: emergency

## PLAN FOR PETS

Make arrangements for your pets as part of your household disaster planning. If you must evacuate it is best to take your pets with you.

Animals left behind in a disaster can be injured, lost or killed. If they are turned loose to fend for themselves, they are likely to become victims of exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, or accidents. In Lake County, pets are allowed in designated public emergency shelters.

### Items to include in a pet's emergency kit:

- Food, water and medicines for five days
- Medical and veterinary records
- Toys, blanket or bed
- Litter box and litter
- ID tag attached to pet
- Pet carrier and leash
- Current photos of pet with physical description
- Container to carry everything

### Items to take a Lake County pet-friendly shelter include:

- Food and water
- Medical and veterinary records
- Litter box and litter
- ID tag attached to pet
- Pet carrier and leash
- Container to carry everything

## PETS DURING A DISASTER

- Bring your pets inside immediately. Animals have instincts about severe weather changes and will often isolate themselves if they are afraid. Bringing them inside early can stop them from running away. Never leave a pet outside or tied up during a storm.
- Separate dogs and cats. Even if your dogs and cats normally get along, the anxiety of an emergency can cause pets to act irrationally.
- Keep small children away from all animals. The anxiety of an emergency can cause animals to act irrationally.
- Birds must eat daily to survive. In an emergency, you may not be able to reach your birds quickly. Talk to your veterinarian or local pet store about special food dispensers that regulate the amount of food a bird is given. Make sure that the bird is caged and the cage is covered by a thin cloth or sheet to provide security and filtered light. Pet-friendly shelters in Lake County will accept birds if caged properly.

## TIPS FOR PETS & DISASTERS

- Buy a pet carrier that allows your pet to stand up and turn around inside. Train your pet to become comfortable with the carrier. Use a variety of training methods such as feeding it in the carrier or placing a favorite toy or blanket inside.
- If your pet is on medication or a special diet, find out from your veterinarian what you should do in case you have to evacuate. Try to get an extra supply of medications.
- Make sure your pet has a properly fitted collar that includes current license and rabies tags. Include an identification tag that has your name, address and phone number.
- If your dog normally wears a choke-chain collar, have a leather or nylon collar available if you have to go to a shelter.
- Keep your pet's shots current and know where the records are. Kennels and pet-friendly shelters require proof of current rabies and all regular vaccinations before accepting pets.
- Contact motels and hotels in communities outside of your area to find out if they will accept pets in an emergency. Pet friendly accommodations are listed on the Lake County Tourism website at [www.lakecountyfl.gov](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov).
- An evacuation order may come or a disaster may strike when you are at work or not at home. Make arrangements in advance for a trusted neighbor to take your pets and meet you at a specified location. Be sure that the person is comfortable with your pets, knows where your animals are likely to be, knows where your disaster supplies are kept and has a key to your home.

## PETS AFTER A DISASTER

- In the first few days after the disaster, leash your pets when they go outside. Always maintain close contact.
- Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered, and your pet may become confused and lost. In addition, snakes and other dangerous animals may be brought into the area with floodwaters. Downed power lines are also a hazard.
- The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Watch animals closely. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yard with access to shelter and water.

## WEATHER RADIOS SAVE LIVES



Thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, bomb scares, chemical spills and wildfires. These are just a few of the potential hazards in Lake County.

Having a battery operated, tone-alert NOAA Weather Radio in your home is like having your own personal tornado siren – only it will alert you of all these impending dangers. In every home, a weather radio should be as common as a smoke detector.

A weather radio broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other non-weather related hazard information 24 hours a day. During an emergency, the weather service forecasters interrupt routine broadcasts and send a special tone activating local weather radios. Weather radios equipped with a special alarm tone feature sound an alert to give you immediate information about a life-threatening situation.

### Local SAME\* code

County	SAME Code
Lake	012069
Marion	012083
Orange	012095
Osceola	012097

*\*Specific Area Message Encoding*

County	SAME Code
Polk	012105
Seminole	012117
Sumter	012119
Volusia	012127

### Local Frequencies

Transmitter	Channel	VHF Frequency
Daytona Beach	channel 1	162.400
Orlando	channel 4	162.475
Sumterville	channel 5	162.500



AlertLake is Lake County's public safety warning system capable of warning Lake County residents of an immediate emergency, such as a missing person, hazardous materials spill, law enforcement advisories and wildfire and tornado warnings issued by the National Weather Service. Alerts can be sent to your home, cellular and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones as well as email accounts.

Current landline telephone users (listed and unlisted) are already registered. Residents can register multiple cellular phone numbers and email addresses. To register for AlertLake, log on to [www.lakecountyfl.gov](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov), keyword search "AlertLake."