

**IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY AND
YOU NEED TO EVACUATE
IMMEDIATELY, BE SURE TO TAKE ALONG
THESE ITEMS:**

During a thunderstorm WARNING:

- ★ Stay inside, away from windows, skylights and glass doors
- ★ Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy
- ★ Avoid open flames such as candles and kerosene lamps
- ★ If power is lost, unplug appliances to reduce power surges when electricity is restored
- ★ Close all window curtains and do not sit near windows to avoid flying objects from outside
- ★ Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys and garden tools, and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside
- ★ Close all secure buildings by closing doors and windows
- ★ Disconnect all electrical appliances

What to do if you are told to evacuate:

- ★ Leave as soon as possible and avoid flooded roads and bridges
Secure your home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve
- ★ Tell someone outside of the storm area where you are going
- ★ If time permits, move valuable items to a higher floor
- ★ Take your emergency kit and disaster supplies with you
- ★ Lock-up and leave home

- ★ Important personal documents.
- ★ Special items for babies/young children/the elderly.
- ★ Three liters of water per person.
- ★ A bar of soap/toiletries.
- ★ Non-electric can opener and utility knife.
- ★ Foam/paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils.
- ★ Blankets or sleeping bags.
- ★ Extra clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes for each family member.
- ★ Canned meat, milk, fish, fruit and vegetables (ten cans per person is recommended).

Contact details

In case of an emergency,
please call

012 358 6300/6400 or 10177.

For more information on disaster preparedness, you can contact the Tshwane Disaster Management Centre at 012 358 2266. The centre is located at 133 Beckett Street, Arcadia.



Disaster Management

Planning for the predictable and preparing for the unpredictable



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Everyone is familiar with disasters. Thunderstorms, floods, veld fires, structural fires and human-caused disasters can affect anyone. Pre-disaster planning and emergency readiness is a complex issue. Different types of disaster may require different knowledge and skills. Although each family needs to prepare in its own way, it is important that all family members – parents, children and others – are provided with information that will help them handle a disaster.

COMMON TYPES OF NATURAL DISASTER

VELD FIRES

Veld fires may threaten people living in or near wild land areas, or those using recreational areas or camp sites. Veld fires spread quickly and can destroy a home in minutes. Although veld and bush fires can sometimes be caused by nature, they are usually started by careless people.

Steps you can take to protect your family if there is a veld fire and things you should do to protect your home from danger:

- ★ Remove outdoor plants and objects that might burn easily
- ★ Keep trees, shrubs, bushes and plants properly trimmed and well watered
- ★ Keep your chimney clean
- ★ Avoid making open fires inside or outside your home

What to do if a veld fire is approaching

- ★ Immediately report it by calling 012 358 6300/6400 or 10177
- ★ Close all doors and windows
- ★ Turn on lights to see better in heavy smoke
- ★ Close gas valves and turn off pilot lights
- ★ If water and hoses are available, water the immediate surroundings of your home
- ★ Wear cotton or light wool long-sleeved shirts, long pants and gloves
- ★ Leave at once when told by emergency officials to evacuate

FLOODS

Floods occur in every part of the country. Overflowing rivers resulting from heavy rains and thunderstorms can cause floods and threaten families and property.

Steps you can take to protect your family if there is a flood:

- ★ Have properly filled sandbags ready to stop rising water (half- to two-thirds full and tied at the top)
- ★ Remove valuable items from the home or move them to upper floors
- ★ Turn off utilities at the main switch (plug)
- ★ Close the main gas valve
- ★ Be ready to evacuate immediately – flood-water can rise quickly
- ★ Pack your car with supplies and fresh water
- ★ Do not walk or drive through flooded areas where the water is deeper than knee-high

STRUCTURAL FIRES

Structural fires account for major losses of property and life. Most households are destroyed and lives lost as a result of structural fires, in informal and formal settlements alike. Many times these fires are caused by accidents, negligence or the careless use of domestic appliances.

Do not –

- ★ sleep with a lit candle, heater on, open flame or cigarette in hand;
- ★ leave electrical wires exposed; or
- ★ overload electrical plugs with appliances.

Do's:

- ★ Keep matchsticks, lit candles and paraffin lights away from children.
- ★ Switch off electrical appliances when not in use.
- ★ Ensure that water does not flow into electrical plugs and keep them dry.
- ★ Keep a portable fire extinguisher and a bucket of sand in the house, and ensure that every family member knows where to reach them and how to use them.

In case of a fire: Use a ventilation mask or wet towel to prevent the inhalation of fumes and smoke; keep enough pairs of eye goggles in the home; where possible, keep a fireproof box to keep personal documents safe.

THUNDERSTORMS

Planning ahead, learning about thunderstorms and taking note of warning messages can reduce the chances of injury or major property damage during a thunderstorm.

Steps you can take to protect your family and property during a thunder storm:

Before the storm:

- ★ Plan an evacuation route
- ★ Know where nearby shelters are located and which routes you would take if you need to evacuate
- ★ Have disaster supplies at hand
- ★ If you have pets, take them to a nearby SPCA shelter or build a safe cage
- ★ Make sure that all family members know what to do during a thunderstorm
- ★ Have a plan for getting your family back together in the event that they are separated when the storm strikes

During a storm/thunderstorm WATCH:

- ★ Listen to the radio or watch television for thunderstorm progress reports
- ★ Check emergency supplies
- ★ Fuel your car
- ★ Remove outside antennas
- ★ Turn your refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings
- ★ Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly
- ★ Store drinking water in clean buckets, jugs, bottles or cooking pots
- ★ Review your evacuation plan
- ★ Do not bath or shower