



NORTHWEST AMBULANCE DISTRICT

**SERVING AUSTINGBURG TOWNSHIP, HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP,
GENEVA CITY AND TOWNSHIP AND TRUMBULL TOWNSHIP**

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From the Desk of Vincent T. Gildone

Evacuation? Now what?

In a disaster it may be necessary for the authorities having jurisdiction, most likely the first chief, to order you to evacuate your home. The amount of time you will need to stay away from your home will depend on the nature of the disaster.

Because disasters can strike with little or no warning, you should be prepared to “move out” in a moment’s notice. Being ready beforehand can and will make a big difference.

First of all, a decision to evacuate is not made unless it is absolutely necessary. First and most importantly, when the “authority having jurisdiction” orders evacuation you need to evacuate. If you don’t, you become part of the emergency, using vital emergency services unnecessarily.

Find out ahead of time routes, where you will go, and your school’s evacuation policy.

What should you bring? Your disaster kit.

- **Wear sturdy shoes and clothing, unplug home electronics and lock your doors and windows.**
- **Turn off utilities if instructed to do so.**
- **Let someone (friends/family) know your route and where you will stay.**
- **Most importantly, follow evacuation routes!**

Going to a public shelter, your pets can come. They will need ID and normal pet supplies such as food. Ashtabula County has a pet shelter plan in place for emergencies such as this.

Other things you will need to know:

- **No alcoholic beverages or weapons will be permitted in a public shelter.**
- **Be patient and cooperate. Sharing space with many other people will be a challenge.**
- **Do not leave the public shelter without the authorities advising you to do so.**

By choice, you can be part of the solution instead of part of the problem! Doing the right thing will make us a strong community and nation!

35 years of putting the patient first

Serving Geneva, Geneva Township, Harpersfield Township, Austinburg Township, and Trumbull Township