

## Managing a Disaster at Home

Although you may not be asked to evacuate—and even if you are—disasters can isolate you from outside help and make it necessary for you to care for yourself for days at a time. Your disaster supply kit (*see page 3*) will contain many of the tools and supplies you need. Here are other ways to use and manage the resources you have at your home.

### WATER

- Water is crucial for health and survival. If a disaster is imminent, fill pitchers, jars, buckets, water bottles and your bathtub in case your community water supply is cut off.
- If your drinking water supply is running low, use water from ice cube trays, the water heater and toilet tanks (but not bowls). It is *not* safe to use the water from radiators, waterbeds or swimming pools.
- Each person should drink at least two quarts of water each day. Drink what you need each day, and look for more water for the next day.

### FOOD

- Ration food supplies for everyone except children and pregnant women. Most people can survive easily on half the normal amount.
- Avoid eating food from dented or swollen cans or food that looks or smells abnormal.
- Use pre-prepared formula for babies.

- Lock the doors and windows.
- Turn off the main switches and valves for gas, water and electricity, if instructed.
- Inform a friend or relative of your route.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Watch for washed-out bridges, flooded areas and downed power lines.

## **PETS**

- Pets should not be left behind during a disaster, but do not risk your own safety attempting to find them if you must evacuate quickly.
- Attach ID tags to your pet with your name and address.
- Remember that most emergency shelters do not allow pets (except service animals).
- Make a list of pet shelters and of hotels that permit animals in the area you would evacuate to.
- Put together an emergency supply kit for your pet. Include things like a first aid kit, food dishes, a litter box, a leash or pet carrier, medication, food, veterinary records and water.

### **If You're Going to a Public Shelter**

- Be aware that alcoholic beverages, pets and weapons are not allowed in public shelters.
- Practice patience and cooperation. Sharing space with many others can be a challenge.
- Stay in the shelter until authorities advise you it is safe to leave.