

WESTWOOD WARD EMERGENCY PREP

5-Minute Plan

Having a well-thought-out plan communicated to your entire family ahead of time ensures everyone is prepared and ready for an emergency whether it's a fire, gas leak, flood or any other disaster that necessitates leaving quickly. A 5-minute plan prepares your household to know what to do and how to do it quickly.

- Mark evacuation routes on a map – knowing which route you will take in an emergency can save you vital minutes. Having alternative exit routes identified ensures you can get out safely should doors, stairways or streets be impassable due to disaster.
- Plan where to go if you can't come home - a safe place where you can go, or where everyone can wait for you. It is especially important to explain to younger members of the family what to do in an emergency so they, too, can be ready and alleviate some of the fear.
- Practice leaving the house in 5 minutes - when disaster strikes, you need to get out quickly. Practicing leaving the house prior to a real-life emergency will help you in the event of a real emergency.
- Put together an emergency supply kit or GO-BAG – when you need to evacuate, you don't want to waste precious time locating flashlights, phone chargers, and other essentials. Have an emergency supply kit packed and ready. Suggested inclusions:
 - First aid kit,
 - Prescription medications, dentures, eyeglasses, contact lenses, and hearing aid batteries as needed.
 - Car keys and house keys.
 - Cash and personal identification.
 - A change of clothes and a sleeping bag or blanket for each household member.
 - Get any pets that you can without endangering yourself.

For more information, see the Red Cross website: <https://redcrosschat.org/2014/05/14/you-have-5-minutes-to-evacuate/> Or simply search for 5 Minute Plan for Disaster Preparedness.