

Evacuation Procedure for Residents

Evacuation Notices:

If an evacuation is necessary, the City of West Fargo will issue one of the following evacuation notices:

1. Immediate Evacuation Alert: It is **necessary** for residents to evacuate immediately as there is an **imminent threat** of flooding or other emergency condition. This will be issued for immediate threats with an expected time frame of zero to six hours. Notifications will be through all available means, warning sirens, door-to-door notification, Code Red and media outlets. (An Immediate Evacuation Alert could be specific to a target population or location.)

2. Evacuation Advisory: Residents are **encouraged** to evacuate as there is a significant **potential threat** of flooding or other emergency condition. This will be issued when the expected timeframe for the threat is six to 48 hours. Notification will be through Code Red and media outlets. (An evacuation advisory could be specific to a target population or location.)

Evacuation Guidelines:

Secure your home:

- Close and lock doors and windows.
- Plug drains.
- Turn off water at the water meter.
- Do **not** turn off electricity; make sure freezers, refrigerators and sump pumps are plugged in.
- Do **not** turn off natural gas, it is important that your home stays warm and does not freeze.
- Leave a note on your front door with contact information (such as a cell phone number). The City of West Fargo **does not** have a database to track homes that have been vacated so do not call the City.

Pet Safety:

- Do not leave pets at home when you evacuate.
- If you evacuate to a shelter, make plans for your pet, not all shelters take pets.

Ensure neighbors are aware of alert

Evacuated areas will be secured by police or National Guard:

- Access to vacated areas will be controlled to ensure that unauthorized individuals will not be permitted in the area.

Listen to local officials:

- Listen to media outlets for information from local officials.

- If the **imminent threat** that caused the evacuation can be stabilized so your neighborhood remains protected, you may be permitted to return to your home.
- Vulnerable populations including the elderly, disabled, small children and those unable to self evacuate, may not be permitted to return to an area that still has a **potential threat** (such as neighborhoods behind contingency levees or other ongoing emergency or recovery operations).
- When you do return to your home, be prepared to provide documentation showing that you do reside in the previously evacuated area. If you cannot demonstrate that you reside in a previously evacuated area, you will not be allowed to enter. Documentation may include a driver's license or utility bill.