

DEFENDER FIELD STANDARD · VERSION 1.0

LEAVE.
SHELTER.
REUNIFY.

A practical field guide for deciding when to evacuate, where to go, how to travel, when and where to shelter, how to reunify, and when to re-enter.

01

LEAVE

Follow current evacuation orders and immediate life-safety conditions.

02

SHELTER

Match the exact room and controls to the current hazard.

03

REUNIFY

Use written destinations, contacts, status messages, and fallback rules.

OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS COME BEFORE HOUSEHOLD PREFERENCE
Never delay an ordered evacuation to retrieve equipment or property.

Decision-trigger worksheet

Write objective triggers, the authority or information source, the action, and who confirms it. Live conditions and official instructions control.

HAZARD / CONDITION	SOURCE / TRIGGER	ACTION	CONFIRMED BY

- [] Immediate fire, smoke, structural danger, or other life threat means leave now
- [] Evacuation order means go by the directed route
- [] Shelter instruction identifies the exact space and controls
- [] Medical, mobility, power, weather, or transport limits trigger early relocation

Destination matrix

A destination is not just a name. Record address, route, accessibility, communications, animal rules if applicable, and a fallback.

DESTINATION	ADDRESS / CONTACT	ACCESS / NEEDS	PRIMARY ROUTE	FALLBACK

PUBLIC SHELTER STATUS CHANGES

Confirm current official shelter location, opening status, accessibility, services, identification rules, and animal arrangements before travel.

Route and transportation worksheet

An alternate must avoid the same bridge, low crossing, gate, tunnel, choke point, or likely closure as the primary route.

ROUTE / MODE	KEY WAYPOINTS	SHARED HAZARD	FUEL / CHARGE	MAP / OWNER

- ☐ Paper and offline maps carried
- ☐ Minimum fuel or state-of-charge rule set
- ☐ Accessible transport and backup driver confirmed
- ☐ Pickup point and departure message written
- ☐ Floodwater and barricades end the route

Hazard-to-shelter matrix

The best space for high wind can be deadly during flooding. Record the exact safe space, access path, controls, supplies, and exit condition.

HAZARD	EXACT SPACE	CONTROLS / SUPPLIES	ENTRY / EXIT CONDITION
Fire / smoke inside			
High wind / tornado			
Outdoor chemical release			
Flooding			
Wildfire / smoke			
Extreme heat			
Extreme cold			
Other			

DO NOT APPLY ONE SHELTER RULE TO EVERY HAZARD
Follow current hazard-specific official guidance and equipment instructions.

Access, medical, and support worksheet

Departure time is set by the person who needs the most preparation, assistance, equipment, communication, or travel time.

PERSON / NEED	EQUIPMENT / SUPPLY	HELPER / TRANSPORT	BACKUP / DESTINATION

- [] Medication, refrigeration, oxygen, or device power plan confirmed
- [] Mobility, transfer, stairs, route surface, and accessible vehicle addressed
- [] Hearing, vision, speech, language, sensory, or cognitive support ready
- [] Children and dependents have release and pickup alternatives
- [] Service-animal or animal module included only when applicable
- [] Primary and backup helpers understand the plan

Departure and go-bag check

Assign ownership, placement, and a departure sequence. Equipment supports the plan; it must never delay an ordered evacuation.

01 Documents Identification, contacts, prescriptions, insurance, route and destination records.	02 Water and food Portable layers matched to people, time, climate, preparation water, and restrictions.
03 Medical Personal medication, devices, power or cooling, first aid, and trained-use items.	04 Communication Charged devices, power, alerts, written cards, offline maps, and status message.
05 Shelter and clothing Weather, footwear, layers, visibility, protection, and destination conditions.	06 Carrier and transport Loaded weight, fit, accessibility, vehicle restraints, fuel, charging, and keys.

- ☐ Critical items staged at the exit
- ☐ Each person knows what to carry
- ☐ Vehicle loading order practiced
- ☐ Departure time measured
- ☐ Nothing requires re-entering a dangerous structure

Leave-or-shelter drill worksheet

Run two scenarios: one requires immediate evacuation; the other requires hazard-specific shelter. Correct every failure.

STEP / OBSERVATION	TARGET	ACTUAL	OWNER / CORRECTION
Alert received and understood			
Correct decision stated			
People and equipment ready			
Destination / room reached			
Status message sent			
Access needs supported			
Official updates monitored			
All gaps assigned			

TEST WITHOUT CREATING DANGER

Do not enter floodwater, smoke, traffic, severe weather, unsafe structures, or restricted areas for a drill.

Re-entry checklist

An official all-clear allows the return process to begin; it does not prove the route, structure, air, water, power, gas, or food is safe.

- ☐ Current authority permits re-entry
- ☐ Route is open and does not cross water, debris, fire activity, or barricades
- ☐ Exterior and structure checked from a safe position
- ☐ Downed lines, gas odor, smoke, sparks, water damage, and instability treated as hazards
- ☐ Utilities restored or shut off only as directed by qualified authorities
- ☐ Drinking water and food safety confirmed from current guidance
- ☐ Damage documented without disturbing hazards
- ☐ Household status and arrival message sent
- ☐ Plan failures recorded and corrected

01

STOP

Leave and call 911 for immediate danger, gas odor, fire, sparks, collapse risk, or other life threat.

02

VERIFY

Use utilities, water, food, generators, and damaged equipment only after the appropriate authority or qualified professional says it is safe.

Sources, limitations, and next actions

This original planning standard is grounded in primary public-safety sources. No cited organization sponsors or endorses Defender Outfitters or its products.

01	Ready.gov / FEMA Evacuation, flood safety, warnings, and FEMA App resources · ready.gov
02	American Red Cross Open shelters and inclusive preparedness resources · redcross.org
03	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Chemical-emergency shelter-in-place guidance · cdc.gov
04	U.S. Fire Administration Home fire escape planning and practice · usfa.fema.gov

IMPORTANT LIMITATION

This guide cannot determine the safest action during a live emergency and does not replace emergency services, current evacuation or shelter orders, hazard-specific instructions, building officials, transportation providers, healthcare or accessibility professionals, product instructions, or applicable law.

NEXT ACTIONS

- [] Complete decision triggers and destinations
- [] Map primary and genuinely different alternate routes
- [] Record hazard-specific shelter spaces
- [] Close transportation and access gaps
- [] Run both leave and shelter drills
- [] Update after every move, drill, emergency, or household change