

Evacuation Plan for Columbus, Ohio

Officials have plans to safely evacuate or move people out of parts of Columbus, Ohio in the event of an emergency. Depending on the type of emergency or threat, officials may move people out of a certain area or move all people from the downtown. The downtown is defined as the area:

- South of Interstate 670
- West of Interstate 71
- North of Interstates 70 and 71
- East of the Scioto River and State Route 315

Those closest to the disaster will be moved first. The notice to evacuate may be announced by:

- Radio or television stations
- Weather radio
- Outdoor warning sirens
- Speakers on police, fire or other emergency vehicles
- Door to door notice from emergency personnel
- Telephone calls to major downtown companies
- The city's website, www.columbus.gov.

Officials will tell you:

- The type of emergency or threat.
- Whether to leave the area by foot, car or bus.
- Where to go for transport out of the area if you do not have a way to leave on your own. Buses may be used to move people outside the affected area to an American Red Cross managed shelter.
- Roads to take to leave the area.
- Roads to avoid.

Officials may tell you to stay in your building for your safety. This is called **shelter in place**. You may be told to:

- Turn off all furnaces, air conditioners and fans.
- Close vents.
- Close and lock all windows and doors.
- Wait for more instructions.

Be Prepared

Businesses

- Have building evacuation and shelter in place plans.
- Share and practice these plans with your employees.
- Have a way to communicate emergency information to all people in the building.
- Encourage employees to pre-plan emergency car pools.

Individuals

- Know your employer's emergency plan.
- Make plans with other employees to car pool in the event of an emergency.
- Make an emergency plan with your family. The plan should include phone numbers to contact family members, a place to meet and how each member will get there. The bus system, COTA, will continue to run and will help move people outside the affected area.
- Follow instructions from officials.