



# FieldHaven Animal Sheltering Team FHA<sup>ST</sup>

"Caring for Pets and Their People During Disasters"



## FieldHaven Animal Sheltering Team (FHA<sup>ST</sup>)

# Emergency Preparedness Checklist for Cats

Here are some things you can do to prepare for an emergency evacuation:

- **Microchip your cats.** If already they are already chipped, be sure your information is up to date. Record chip numbers in your phone.
- Be sure you cats are **up to date on vaccines**, especially **rabies**. Have the records on your phone or printed out in your go kit.
- **A stash of supplies** ready, including but not limited to: food, a small litter box, litter, and medications.
- **Photos of your cat** on your phone for identification in case you get separated.
- **A secure designated carrier or crate** for each cat. Make sure carriers are escape-proof. Have some zip-ties handy for last minute security checks. We recommend carriers have bolts or zip ties to secure the top and bottom together, not plastic latches. **We do not recommend cardboard carriers.**
- Use a **harness with an ID tag, a leash**, and a **Tile™** to ensure extra security for you both.
- **Water** for both you and your cat(s).
- Don't forget to have your personal go-bag ready. You need to take care of yourself so you can take of your cat(s)!



**FieldHaven Feline Center**

(916) 434-6022

[info@fieldhaven.com](mailto:info@fieldhaven.com)

[www.fieldhaven.com/fieldhaven](http://www.fieldhaven.com/fieldhaven)



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When it comes to evacuating during a fire or other disaster, the first thing to keep in mind is to **crate your cat(s) sooner** than later. As soon as you have an inkling you may have to evacuate, gather up your pet(s) and secure them. Cats are masters at sensing danger. Unlike dogs who glue themselves to humans in uncertain times, cats will scatter and hide. **Do not** wait until the last minute to secure them in a carrier. You may end up being forced to make a desperate decision if you can not find one last cat who has crawled up under the bed and is inaccessible.

#### Here are some tips to ensure safe, secure, and less-stressful evacuation:

- If your cat is fractious or stressed, **use a towel to "burrito"** them to put in the crate.
- If possible, before putting your cat into a carrier or crate, put a **secure harness with a leash attached on**. If a harness is impossible, use a collar.
- Put an **ID tag** and a **Tile™ locator** on the harness or collar .
- Once your cat is in the crate or carrier, **check it thoroughly for security, especially the door**.
- **Use zip-ties to secure anything that is loose or broken**. Cats are masters of escape!
- **Throw a towel or sheet over the crate or carrier**. This will give your cat a little extra security.
- **Do NOT take your cat out of the crate in your car or anywhere else** until you are secure in a closed building.
- If you are in a huge pinch and have no secure carriers or crates, you can **use a pillowcase with duct or masking tape** to transport your cat. Put the kitty/pillowcase inside a box or laundry basket and put in your car.



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