

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E Boulevard Ave., Bismarck 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Resources for people who voluntarily evacuate Fargo *Reception Center available to help voluntary evacuees get to shelters*

BISMARCK, ND - Vulnerable individuals and others who have chosen to voluntarily evacuate due to flooding of the Red River in the Fargo region and **who need to stay in a shelter should go to the Reception Center in the Ag Building, Red River Valley Fair Grounds in West Fargo.** Individuals who have caregivers assisting them should have caregivers accompany them to a shelter if possible.

What to expect at the Reception Center:

- People can get information about shelter locations
- People register
- Reception Center staff will assess needs (transportation, gas, etc.)
- Reception Center can help connect people to needed resources
- Transportation to shelters can be arranged

Special Needs Ride Service:

People with disabilities who need a ride to evacuate can call the Special Needs Evacuation Hotline at 701-241-5791.

Ride Resource for Others:

Members of the general public who need transportation should call 701-476-4000.

What to bring to a shelter:

- Medications (in original bottles)
- Medical support equipment (wheelchairs, bandages/dressings, feeding equipment, oxygen, etc.)
 - People with oxygen tanks must notify Reception Center and Shelter staff
- Baby formula and diapers if caring for an infant
- Name & phone number of your doctor, home health agency, hospital, next of kin
- ID (such as driver's license) and valuable papers
- Food for special dietary needs
- Personal hygiene items and extra clothes
- Blanket, sleeping bag, and pillow
- Radio, flashlight, cards, or a book
- Cash for purchases after a disaster
- **Shelters do NOT allow smoking, guns, alcohol, or pets.**

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Pets and Shelters:

American Red Cross Shelters accept service animals, not pets. A **shelter for pets has been established at the West Fargo Red River Valley Fairgrounds**. The North Dakota Board of Animal Health is working to establish additional pet shelters. Fargo evacuees who use bus transportation will have to leave their pets at the Red River Valley Fair Grounds Shelter. Pets will be well cared for by a veterinary management assistance team for the duration of the evacuation.

Locating Affected Family Members:

- The American Red Cross has a Web site and phone number to help those affected by flooding connect with family members.
- People can register on-line as “safe and well” and can search for others who have registered on the Web site at <https://disastersafe.redcross.org/>
- Those without Internet access can call **1-800-RED CROSS** (1-800-733-2767) to register.