

*[Music plays]*

*Male:* Media accounts of evacuations often focus on behaviors or events that are extremely rare but typically are sensationalized. Some evacuation myths include panic, looting, fear of overloading the public with information, and multiple traffic accidents because of traffic volume. People rarely panic in evacuations. Panic involves antisocial behavior against others when people attempt to evacuate when a clear threat is present and the avenues of escape are limited or blocked.

Elevated stress or rapid movement away from a danger is not panic but people's normal reactions to flee from a hazard. Panic has never occurred in evacuations due to natural or technological disasters but has taken place in fires in confined structures when egress is limited. Susan Cutter.

*Female:* Panic and chaos during evacuations is one of the great myths that the media perpetrates on the American public. Oftentimes people are very orderly. They get frustrated in evacuations because they're stopped on the road. Their tempers flare, but generally they're very orderly and you don't see the sort of panic and things that you see in the Hollywood movies or what the media thinks is going on. So it's one of these fabulous myths that there's absolutely no social science research to support it.

*Male:* Looting and criminal activities are uncommon in evacuations. Looting is more likely in locations where a strong class differential exists. Altruistic or helping behavior is much more prevalent in emergencies. One cannot provide too much information in evacuations. Forget the notion that people will be confused with the facts. People want to be informed with detailed and relevant information and will seek to confirm information. Mike Lindell.

*Male:* Most people go through their entire lives without having to experience a major disaster. And so when one does occur to them, then it's entirely logical that they would say I can't believe that this is happening. If it's information from a social source that they would say well maybe they misunderstood, and so they look for confirmation of the warning, especially if it's from a source that is likely to have gotten it wrong. If they first hear from a relative or a friend, then they're much more likely to question it than if they hear a warning over the news media, especially one that is very clear about what is the area that's going to be affected.

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Or – and the research has shown this – if they’re warned by a public safety official. If you have a police officer or a firefighter in uniform come to the door and tell you that there’s a chlorine leak and that you need to evacuate right away, people are most likely to believe that kind of a source with a very specific message and also with a very specific recommendation for what action to take. If they say evacuate, don’t pack anything. You just need to get out right now. There’s not enough time to pack. People do that.

*Male:*

We’ve discussed some of the considerations that should be taken into account when developing an evacuation plan for a community. Remember to know your community. What hazards citizens may be threatened with, the risks involved, and where people are located both day and night. Encourage individuals with special needs to identify themselves and their needs to emergency officials if they will require specific aid in an evacuation. Conduct what-ifs when developing plans.

Enlist the aid of all stakeholders, agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and media representatives and form alliances. Know whose responsibility it is to issue protective action recommendations and evacuation orders. Determine what resources and pre-scripted messages will be needed to effectively warn all segments of the community, including nonresidents. Develop estimates to judge how long it will take to evacuate people from areas at risk. Planners can offer help to commercial and private facilities in developing evacuation plans, especially for institutions with special needs, populations, and coordinate plans to ensure speedy compliance with official evacuation orders.

In summary, evacuation is the protective action option preferred by most emergency officials, although in some situations sheltering is the best option. A large body of knowledge exists on emergency evacuations, and planning principles are well understood. And there are models and simulations that can help evacuation traffic from congested areas. Evacuation is both physically and mentally exhausting for evacuees. Facilitating the process to provide a safe and uneventful trip for those involved should be the aim of all good evacuation planning and preparation. Thank you.

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