



Town of Avon

60 West Main Street
Avon, Connecticut 06001-3719
(860) 409-4300 • www.avonct.gov

2024 Home Guide To Emergency Preparedness

Preparing a Plan for Emergency Events

Dear Avon Resident,

Every citizen of Avon should understand what to do if an emergency event occurs in their community. Your safety will depend on being alert, knowing what to do, when to stay in your home, when to go to a shelter, what to do with your family pet, and how to get up-to-date information on the emergency.

There are many emergencies that could impact Avon. The most common are winter storms, power outages, flooding, or hazardous materials incidents. Every emergency, including very serious ones such as a terrorist attack or plane crash, involves the same basic planning for your protection. This Home Guide to Emergency Preparedness provides information on what action will be taken by Town officials to help ensure your safety.

If you have any questions please contact the Office of Emergency Management at 860-409-4390.

Yours in Safety,


Brandon Robertson,
Town Manager


Bruce Appell,
Director of Emergency Management

Avon's Emergency Operations Plan

In the event of a town-wide emergency, police, fire and emergency medical personnel will be called to duty to provide for your protection. Public health, hospitals, emergency planners, public works, transportation, schools and volunteer organizations will be mobilized to carry out their missions.

The State of Connecticut and Town of Avon use Everbridge and Reverse 911 to advise residents of the nature of an emergency and steps to take to help ensure your safety. This information will be broadcast over normal news media outlets, such as radio stations WTIC-AM (1080 AM) and WTIC-FM (96.5 FM) and local television stations. The Town website www.avonct.gov and Town of Avon Facebook page www.facebook.com/townofavonct can also be used for sources of information.

If you decide to go to a designated shelter, be sure to shut off water and electricity before leaving your home, and leave natural gas on, unless otherwise advised. Lock your home, take your pets, your disaster supply kit, and use travel routes specified by local authorities.

Create Your Own Plan

- Create an Emergency Communication Plan. Choose an out-of-town contact your family will call or email to check on each other.
- Establish a Meeting Place. Having a known meeting place away from your home will save time and confusion should your home be affected or the area evacuated.
- Assemble your disaster supply kit.
- Keep your family vehicle full of fuel.

Prepare Your Home for an Emergency

Planning for an emergency requires considering situations that could result when things that you rely on daily such as electricity, water, heat, telephone or transportation are disrupted or lost for a considerable amount of time. Consequently, you should plan on having food, water and other essentials to get you through the emergency. Most emergency management planners suggest having enough supplies to last you and your family for three to five days.

Important Telephone Numbers

Emergencies: Dial 911

Police Routine: 860-409-4200

Fire Routine: 860-677-2644

Town Offices: 860-409-4300

Office of Emergency Management: 860-409-4390

Farmington Valley Health District: 860-352-2333

Eversource Power Outages: 800-286-2000

Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG) Emergency Gas Leak: 866-924-5325

Connecticut Water: 800-286-5700

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Your Emergency Preparedness Kit

The six basic items that should be stored in your home:

- Water
- Food
- First aid supplies
- Tools
- Clothing, bedding and sanitation supplies
- Specialty items

Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container such as a large, covered trash container, camping backpack or a duffle bag. Store it in a convenient place and put a smaller version in your vehicle. Keep items in airtight plastic bags. Remember to change the stored water and rotate food supplies every six months (place dates on containers). Check the supplies and rethink your needs every year. Consult your pharmacist or physician about storing prescriptions and maintain a current list.

Water

Store water in plastic containers or purchase bottled water. Avoid containers that will decompose or break, such as glass bottles. Plan for one gallon of water per person per day. Water should be stored in a cool, dark place with the date labeled on the container and changed every six months.

Food

Store a three to five day supply of nonperishable food per person. Foods should require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little to no water. Include a manual can opener. Ready to eat canned fish, meat, fruit, vegetables; canned juices, milk, soup (if powered store extra water); high energy foods like peanut butter, jelly, crackers, trail mix and granola bars; vitamins; foods for infants, elderly or those with special dietary needs; comfort/stress foods like cookies, hard candy, instant coffee, tea bags.

First-Aid Kit

Assemble a first-aid kit for your home and one for each vehicle. Items should include sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes, gauze pads, hypoallergenic adhesive tape, triangular bandages, scissors, tweezers, needles, moistened towelettes, antiseptic, thermometer, tongue blades, tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant, safety pins, cleansing soap, latex gloves, sunscreen. Also, pain relievers such as aspirin, acetaminophen or ibuprofen, anti-diarrhea medication, activated charcoal(for poisoning) and laxatives.



Tools and Supplies

Keep the following items handy for all-around use: extra batteries of assorted sizes (check shelf life before purchasing), mess kits or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, battery-operated radio, flashlights, carbon monoxide/smoke detectors, cash and/or travelers checks and change, manual can opener, utility knife, tube tent, pliers, compass, water-proof matches, plastic storage containers, signal flares, paper and pencils, pens, needles and thread, shut-off wrench for house gas and water, whistle, plastic sheeting and map of area for locating shelters. For sanitation, pack toilet paper, soap and liquid detergent, feminine supplies, plastic garbage bags with ties, plastic bucket and lid, disinfectant and household chlorine bleach.

Clothing and Bedding

Wear clothing that will protect you even in warm weather. If you live in a cold climate, you must think about warmth. It is possible you will not have heat. Assemble one or two complete changes of clothing per person: Jacket or coat, long pants, long sleeve shirt, sturdy shoes or boots, hat, gloves, scarf, rain gear, thermal underwear, blankets or sleeping bags, sunglasses.

Specialty Items

Important Family Documents: wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, passports, stocks/bonds, immunization records, important phone numbers, passwords, credit card accounts, social security cards and other personal family records.

Babies: formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk and medication

Adults: medications/prescriptions, denture needs, eye glasses/contact lens, related supplies

Entertainment: games, books, quiet toys for children

Public Emergency Shelters

When conditions warrant, Avon's Emergency Management Team may establish community-based shelters where residents can seek refuge, as well as to sleep and eat. Avon High School at 510 West Avon Road has been designated as Avon's primary shelter location. The Office of Emergency Management, assisted by the Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross, staffs and operates shelters. Persons needing a shelter are asked to bring a change of clothing, bathing and sanitary supplies, pre-filled prescription and other medical needs, denture and eye care materials and special dietary supplies or requirements. With the exception of certified guide dogs, pets are not permitted in shelters unless a location has been designated as Pet Friendly. Consider bringing your pet to a friend's or relative's house before going to a shelter

Shelter Locations

If prolonged power outages warrant opening shelters, Avon's primary shelter location is:

- **Avon High School**
510 West Avon Road
860-404-4740

To find out if Avon has activated its shelters, go to the Town of Avon website: www.avonct.gov

or call 860-409-4300

Helpful Websites:

Town of Avon:
www.avonct.gov

Eversource:
www.eversource.com

Connecticut Natural Gas:
www.cngcorp.com

Connecticut Water:
www.ctwater.com

State of Connecticut
Division of Emergency
Management and Homeland
Security
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEMHS>

American Red Cross:
www.ctredcross.org

Federal Emergency
Management Agency:
www.fema.gov
www.ready.gov

What To Do When Electrical Power is Lost

Disruption of electrical service can occur as a result of many things, including lighting, high winds, ice and heavy snow, and equipment failure. Service is normally restored within a short period of time. However, major power outages can happen for extended periods from time to time. When power is lost you should:

Check to see if your neighbors have power.

Loss of power may be only in your home resulting from a blown fuse or tripped circuit. If your neighbors are also without service, it is important for every customer without power to contact Eversource at 800-286-2000. This provides Eversource with an accurate list of those affected locations. If you must go outside to assess the situation, take a flashlight and watch for downed power lines that could still be energized. If downed power lines are located, do not go near them or touch anything they may be in contact with. Report downed power lines immediately.

Turn off all major appliances.

Leave just a few light switches on in the home and as well as the front porch light. Major appliances (refrigerators, electric water heaters, air conditioners and pumps) left on can overload electric lines when power is restored causing a second outage.

Keep refrigerators and freezers closed.

Most food can be kept cold for a day or two if refrigerator doors are kept closed. During the winter, you may be able to store some items outside in proper containers. If temperatures are below freezing, it's possible to freeze water outside in containers and place them inside your refrigerator to help keep food cold. Try to consume perishable foods first. Some partially frozen foods can be refrozen as long as they contain ice crystals or are no warmer than 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Consider purchasing a thermometer for both the refrigerator and freezer. Do not refreeze seafood, poultry, ice cream, cream sauces or foods susceptible to spoilage. When in doubt, throw it out. During times of prolonged outages, your power company may provide dry ice at designated locations, bring an ice cooler or suitable container to transport it back home. As a rule of thumb, 25 pounds of dry ice will keep a 10-cubic-foot freezer at the proper temperature (32 degrees Fahrenheit) for three to four days.

Use flashlights or battery operated lanterns.

Candles and kerosene lanterns are not recommended for lighting because of the inherent fire safety hazards.

Keeping Warm

Select a single room in the home in which the entire family can live; ideally a room which gets sunlight during daylight hours. Use fireplaces and wood-burning stoves with care and always supervise them when burning. Make sure the fireplace is in proper working condition and has been inspected before use. Wear layers of clothing, including hats, sweaters and coats, which entrap warm air and helps to maintain body heat for longer periods. For homes with natural gas heaters, keep meters and vents clear of ice and snow. Do not attempt to keep warm in a vehicle.



Use portable emergency generators for limited electrical power during an outage, but take care to ensure that they do not pose a threat to you and your family. Never fuel or run a portable generator inside the home or garage. Gas-powered generators pose a serious fire and carbon monoxide threat. Generators should be installed by a licensed electrician in compliance with Eversource guidelines to ensure the generator is equipped with a double-throw transfer switch that protects your equipment and prevents feedback on power lines. Always operate generators according to manufacturers' instructions. For more information call Eversource at 800-286-200 or Avon Building Department at 860-409-4316.

Water systems with electric pumps, such as wells or cisterns, will not operate when the power is out. Use alternate sources of water until power is restored.

Gas appliances may not work if the electricity because equipment may require electricity for ignition or valve operation.

Water heaters that are drained to prevent damage from freezing must have their power circuit shut off as well. Failure to do so could result in loss of the heating element when power is restored. Never turn on a water heater unless the tank is full.

Plumbing can freeze when power is lost during cold weather periods. Drain pumps, supply lines, water heaters, boilers, traps in drains of tubs, sinks, commodes, dishwashers and washing machines. To avoid flooding when temperatures rise, turn off supply lines to outside spigots.

Trees are the primary causes of power outages in Avon. Eversource has regularly scheduled programs for trimming trees. When planting and or trimming trees on your property, always seek professional help in trimming limbs or branches that are close to power lines.

Connecticut residents who depend on life support

equipment such as respirators, ventilators, oxygen equipment or other life-sustaining devices, may be eligible for medical protection status with Eversource for the limited purpose of emergency response during power outage event (physician's approval required). For information or to register with Eversource go to: <https://www.eversource.com/content/residential/account-billing/payment-assistance/medical-web-portal-protection> Households should have a contingency plan that includes an alternate power source for life support equipment and an alternate location for the person.

Safety Notes

Never use gas ovens or stovetops to heat homes. Charcoal or propane grills should not be used inside the home since they pose a serious threat of fire and creation of poisonous carbon monoxide.

Kerosene heaters should always be used in a well-ventilated room, and never refueled inside the home or in an attached garage.

When removing ashes from the fireplace, make sure that the ashes have been cooled completely and are placed in a metal container outside and way from the home.

Never drive over downed power lines
All power lines should be treated as if energized.

Keeping Updated in an Emergency

Getting information during an emergency situation is vital, especially at the height of the event, when evacuation may be required. Keep a battery-operated radio handy. Radio and television stations provide some of the quickest means to obtain information. Town emergency information will be broadcast over local radio and television stations. To receive Urgent Alert Updates subscribe to Town News: www.avonct.gov/subscribe

Check on Relatives and Neighbors

During storms and other emergency events, check to see how your relatives and neighbors are coping, especially senior citizens and persons with disabilities. If possible, consider helping them plan or locate resources for assistance. The Office of Emergency Management can be reached at 860-409-4319.

What to do for Pets in Emergencies

Emergency planning should include all members of the family, including pets. If your family must re-locate to a shelter or other site, confine your pet, if appropriate, to a specific room in the house and provide plenty of food and water to sustain the animal while you are away. If possible, arrange for someone to board the animal, or locate a relative or friend who can check on its well-being on a regular basis. If you place your dog or cat in a kennel, make sure the facility meets all requirements for long-term care and has an adequate disaster plan itself.



- Put together a basic disaster kit for your pets in case you must leave your residence quickly. Recommended items would include:
An airline-approved carrier for each dog, cat, or other pets, with ID, photo, vaccination records, registrations, special needs list, sufficient medicines and a muzzle and leash.
- An extra supply of pet food (for dogs a lower protein dog formula will produce less stool, a benefit when kept indoors).
- Plenty of clean water.
- Bowls (disposable containers if you must leave your residence), can opener, kitchen trash bags, bleach (disinfectant and water purification), blankets, towels, paper towels, and waste disposal supplies

For More Information

For more information on emergency preparedness for pets, call the Connecticut Humane Society at 860-594-4502 or the Humane Society of the United States at 202-452-1100.

For general questions or more information on emergency preparedness, please contact Avon's Office of Emergency Management at 860-409-4390.