

# **Five Things Cancer Patients Should Know When Evacuating**

Sometimes, unexpected events force us to evacuate our homes. As a cancer patient, being prepared means more than safeguarding your home – it's also about ensuring your cancer treatment continues uninterrupted – even in the event of an unexpected emergency.

It's important to find an alternative site to receive treatment in case you ever need it. You may continue your treatment at any Texas Oncology facility statewide.

It is essential you have a plan <u>before</u> needing to evacuate. Here are some important tips in case you are forced to leave your community. The Emergency Preparedness form available at *www.TexasOncology.com* can help organize your records.

### TIP No. 1: TALK ABOUT IT

- Ask your doctor for a Texas Oncology location near the area you would go in the event of an emergency evacuation.
- Share your plan and provide your contact information to someone close to you a family member, friend, or neighbor.
- Advise your home physician of your plan and contact information.

#### TIP No. 2: KNOW YOUR TREATMENTS - PAST AND PRESENT

- Work with your doctor to summarize your medical history including medications; current and recent treatments; and other dietary and health needs. Store this information in a waterproof container and take it with you if you evacuate.
- Ask your doctor if you will need additional prescriptions to cover the time you are away from home.

#### TIP No. 3: KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

- Write down the name, office address, and phone number of your home doctor and pharmacy.
- Store these numbers in your cell phone.
- Keep the information with your medical history.

#### TIP No. 4: KNOW YOUR COVERAGE

- Take your insurance card with you.
- Know your insurance coverage and what doctors and medical facilities are available to you.
- Document ownership of any medical equipment in case it is lost or stolen. Keep this information with your medical records.

## TIP No. 5: KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

- Continue your care at any of more than 175 Texas Oncology locations. Call 1-888-864-4226 or search for a cancer center at www.TexasOncology.com to locate your closest practice. Or talk with your home doctor to see what he or she recommends.
- Patients who relocate to another state may visit www.usoncology.com to find a US Oncology network practice in their area.

For more information, visit www.TexasOncology.com or call 1-888-864-4226.