



Planning for emergencies

A quick guide for families with babies and toddlers

1



Plan to leave early.

2



Pack an evacuation kit for you and your children. Learn what to pack at aba.asn.au/emergency

3



Arrange to evacuate to a friend or family member's home, rather than an evacuation centre, if possible.

4



Decide how you will get to your place of evacuation.

5



Work out who you will contact to tell them you are leaving and that you have arrived safely.

6



Make a back-up plan. Identify other options for transport and safe places to shelter.

These recommendations are informed by the Babies and Young Children in the Black Summer (BiBS) Study.

This research found that parents often had little time to evacuate and that packing items for children was difficult and time consuming. As a result, parents often evacuated later than they wanted to. They also often evacuated without things they needed to care for their children (such as food or nappies). Evacuation centres were difficult places for families, and even more so for mothers who evacuated on their own with their children.

When asked what they would do differently, parents in the study said they would have an evacuation kit packed for their child and would leave earlier.

