

TIPS FOR RENTING AFTER A DISASTER

Before Renting, Safely Assess The Structure and Prior Damage

- * Ensure the home has been inspected for structural hazards, mold, and environmental contamination.
- * Assess indoor air quality and cleanup.
- * Ask landlords about recent repairs, mitigation steps, and documentation of completed cleanup.
- * Check with local authorities to ensure all housing standards/codes have been met by landlords.

Document Everything

- * Complete a thorough walk-through of the rental, with the landlord.
- * Take photos and videos during the initial walk-thru, including appliances and structural features. This is critical for providing conditions later.
- * Ensure the rental is safe and fully habitable. The tenant is not responsible for getting the house up to code.
- * Keep copies of all receipts, communications, and inspection reports.

Beware of Scams and Fraud

- * Be cautious of online or social media posts regarding rentals.
- * Verify the person listing the rental is the actual property owner or licensed manager.
- * Be cautious of landlords demanding large deposits upfront.
- * Never wire money or pay in cash without a contract and key in hand.

Short-Term, Long-Term

- * Evaluate whether to sign a long-term lease if your displacement will be extended.
- * Short-term, month-to-month leases should be considered if you need more time to make permanent decisions - recovery takes time.
- * Short-term vs. long-term decisions may also depend on availability of housing and housing assistance.

