

What should you do in the event of an evacuation?

Your neighbourhood must be evacuated: what do you need to know?

When is an evacuation necessary?

Fires or floods could be a reason to evacuate an area. The same applies to the discovery of an unexploded bomb left over from the Second World War. Explosive ordnance from the Second World War is still being found in Ludwigshafen - for example, when a new construction site is being developed or during work on sewers or roads. Although these explosive devices may have remained undetected for decades, they are still dangerous. If a device is found, the fire brigade will notify the Kampfmittelräumdienst (KMRD) (explosive ordnance disposal service) of the Rhineland-Palatinate to eliminate the danger. The experts at the explosive ordnance disposal service will then decide what to do. If the explosive device cannot be moved and must be defused or rendered harmless in a controlled detonation, the fire brigade will establish a safety radius on the advice of the KMRD. All the buildings and streets in the safety radius must be evacuated while the bomb is being disarmed.

What is an evacuation?

If a neighbourhood or district is evacuated, all the residents and persons in the area must leave the zone. The city administration and the fire brigade set a specific date for this. The area will be visibly cordoned off. Major incidents, fires, floods and discoveries of bombs are events that would make evacuation necessary to protect the population. Evacuation is an important safety measure.

How will I be notified of an evacuation?

The city administration will use various communication channels to inform the population and the media of the extent and time of the evacuation. This takes place on the website of the city of Ludwigshafen www.ludwigshafen.de, the municipal social media channels Twitter (www.twitter.com/ludwigshafen_de), Facebook (www.facebook.com/ludwigshafen.de) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/stadt.ludwigshafen), via the fire brigade's information hotline 0621 5708-6000, which is activated in such cases, and the free smartphone apps KATWARN and NINA. The city administration also distributes leaflets to inform residents who are directly affected by the evacuation. The leaflets are posted through every letterbox.

Is it possible to remain in the evacuation area?

No. The city administration has a duty to protect the population from the danger and, where necessary, can force persons who do not comply with the request to evacuate to leave their houses, apartments and the affected area.

Should residents lock their homes?

Residents who are forced to leave their homes should close all the shutters to prevent damage in event of an explosion. The doors to the apartments and houses should be locked.

What about pets?

Pets should leave the evacuation area with the residents where possible. If this is not possible, animals may remain in the home.

What if assistance is required?

Persons requiring assistance can call the fire brigade information hotline for assistance. The emergency services assist with the evacuation of residential homes and hospitals.

Will alternative accommodation be provided?

The city administration will provide accommodation for the duration of the evacuation where persons affected by the evacuation will receive assistance and sustenance. The city administration will provide detailed information on the accommodation via the above channels.

How long does an evacuation take?

This depends on many unforeseen factors. What is certain, however, is that a speedy evacuation helps to shorten the time people have to spend away from their homes.