

Preparing Your Evacuation Grab-and-Go Bag

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Disaster can strike anywhere. Depending on where you live, you may need to prepare to leave your home quickly because of floods, fires, tornadoes, earthquakes or hurricanes. Such man-made disasters as chemical spills and nuclear contamination are also possible. In case you have to leave your home unexpectedly, a little preparation can make a big difference in your ability to recover from the losses you incur.

Items for Your Grab-and-Go Bag

Personal Needs

- Cash for several days' living expenses.
- Rolls of quarters.
- Debit card.
- Checkbook.
- Extra credit card.
- Spare keys to your autos and home.
- Keys to safe deposit box.
- Medication you or other family members must take on regular basis.
- Sealed snacks for family members and pets.
- Bottled water.
- Blanket.
- Flashlight with batteries.
- Radio.
- Overnight items and fresh clothes for each family member.

Emergency Phone Numbers

- Family members and friends.
- Employers.
- Health care providers.
- Insurance agents.
- Lawyers, accountant and financial advisors.
- Repair contractors.
- Clergy.

Steps to Creating Your Grab-and-Go Bag

Step 1

- Place papers in sealed, waterproof plastic bags.
- Use a backpack or bag with rollers for ease in carrying.

Step 2

- Store the bag at home in a secure, easily accessible location.

Step 3

- If you must evacuate:
 - Grab the bag and take it with you.
 - Keep the bag with you at all times.
 - Do not leave the bag unattended in your car.

List of Important Information

- Prescriptions including medication, dosage, pharmacy phone number, prescription number and doctor.
- Driver's license numbers for all family members.
- Social Security numbers for all family members.
- Account numbers for all bank and investment accounts and safe combinations.
- Credit card account numbers and contact information.
- Account numbers, contact information and due dates for all debts.
- List of service providers (utilities, phone, etc.) and contact information.
- Insurance policies including contact information.
- Logins and passwords for internet accounts.
- Passport or visa numbers.

Other Tips

- Inform friends and family about your evacuation plan ahead of time.
- Prepare an emergency contact card for all family members to keep with them in case of separation or injury. Visit redcross.org/prepare/ECCard.pdf for an example.
- In case of a widespread disaster, it's helpful to have duplicates or digital copies of items stored with an out-of-town relative or friend.

Items To Be Stored Away From Home

Copies of:

- Durable power of attorney.
- Titles.
- Birth, marriage, death, adoption, divorce, baptismal certificates.
- Children's immunization records.
- Social Security cards.
- Deeds.
- Wills.
- Trust documents.
- Health care directives.
- Stock, bond or other investment certificates.
- Recent investment statements.
- First two pages of previous year's income tax return.
- School records including diplomas and certificates.
- Resumes.
- Military discharge papers.
- Most recent credit report.
- Bankruptcy discharge statement.
- Rental agreement and contact information for landlord.
- Videotaped home inventory.
- Irreplaceable photos.
- Backup copies of computerized financial records.
- Completed "[W 223 Compiling Your Important Information](#)" forms.



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