

14. READY-SET-GO BAG

Creating an evacuation kit

WHY ACT?

If you ever have to leave home in a hurry, it is critical to have some of your most essential needs planned for in advance. Preparing a Go Bag will give you peace of mind as you evacuate your home, and the resiliency to maintain your well-being while you are sheltering elsewhere. This action will ensure you have all your important papers and needed emergency items gathered in one place, ready to go out the door with you at a moment's notice.

PREPAREDNESS ACTION

Step 1: Get a notebook and pen or pencil.

Step 2: Scan your home for the items on the list below. Make a list of items that will need to be purchased. Make another list of items you will need to photocopy (e.g., birth certificates) or duplicate (e.g., keys). All household members should have their own Go Bag, so multiply some items on this list by the number of people in your household.

A Go Bag consists of:

- ▶ The Bag. Choose a sturdy, easy-to-carry container (e.g., a backpack, duffel bag or suitcase on wheels) that is large enough to hold all of the items listed
- ▶ Photocopies (not originals) of your important documents (reference cards, insurance cards, birth certificates, deeds, photo IDs, proof of address, etc.) in a waterproof and portable container
- ▶ A local or regional map, the addresses and phone numbers of your agreed upon meeting places, and out-of-state contact person's phone number (see Action 17, pg. 39)
- ▶ Extra set of car and house keys
- ▶ Credit and ATM cards or traveler's checks and cash – at least \$50-\$100, in small denominations
- ▶ Bottled water and non-perishable food, such as energy or granola bars
- ▶ Battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries, or a wind-up radio that does not require batteries

- ▶ Medication and other essential personal items, and your doctor's name and phone number (see Action 15, pg. 35). Be sure to refill medications before they expire. Include a list of the medications you take, why you take them, and their dosages.
- ▶ Travel sizes of essential personal grooming items: washcloth, towel, soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss, shampoo, deodorant, comb, brush, razor, shaving cream, mirror, feminine supplies, lip balm, sunscreen, contact lens solutions, spare contact lenses or eyeglasses
- ▶ First aid kit (see Action 13, pg. 31)
- ▶ Flashlight
- ▶ One complete change of clothing
- ▶ Sturdy, comfortable shoes
- ▶ Lightweight raingear
- ▶ A mylar blanket
- ▶ Child care supplies
- ▶ Other special care items, as needed

Step 3: Fill in the Household Emergency Contact Information form on pages 67-68 of this workbook and make a copy for each household member's Go Bag.

Step 4: When all of the items have been gathered, schedule a Go Bag packing party with your household.

Step 5: Have household members pack their own Go Bags, so they are familiar with the contents and can add any other personal items they feel are essential to have with them.

Step 6: Stow your Go Bags. The Go Bags should be kept in a designated, easily accessible place and must be ready for a hasty exit. Make sure all household members know where their Go Bags are stored.

NOTE: Consider creating a smaller Go Bag for work, school and car.

MATERIALS

All the items you need for a Go Bag that's ready to go!

TIME

A few hours.

RESILIENCY GAIN

You now have the ability to evacuate your home quickly in an emergency.