

Checklist: Emergency Evacuation

Getting Started

You just found out your home is in an emergency evacuation zone. Regardless of the disaster at hand -- flood, fire, extreme weather -- your window to safety is growing narrower by the hour.

To help you through this stressful situation, we've broken this checklist into three sections to help you organize what you need, pack up the car, and hit the road before danger strikes:

- Evacuation Related Items
- Things That Are Irreplaceable
- Things You Will Need In The Future

EVACUATION RELATED ITEMS

These are the things you'll need to make your time away from home as comfortable as possible.

MEDICINE, HYGIENE, AND FIRST AID

Some of these items may seem more about comfort than survival, but focus on the most important, starting with any prescription medication treating a serious or chronic condition.

Prescriptions (include the names of medication, doctor, pharmacy)

OTC Medication (pain, stomach, sinus)

Inhaler

EpiPen

Diapers/Formula (if applicable)

Glasses/Contacts (with solution and cases)

TOILETRY BAG

Personal hygiene items are nice, but ask yourself: Are they necessary or a luxury? Don't waste too much time on things you can easily pick up after you're safe.

Ideally, you should always have a small toiletry bag ready to go with the following essentials:

Toothbrush (1 for each family member)

Toothpaste

Soap

Deodorant

Feminine Products

Band Aids & Ointment (example: Neosporin)

CASH & ID

Some of the following things might seem like no-brainers, but during a crisis it's easy to forget even the most obvious, everyday items. For this reason, make sure you have the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Cards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Checkbooks | <input type="checkbox"/> Driver's License |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passport | <input type="checkbox"/> Keys to Home/Vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security Fobs/Cards | <input type="checkbox"/> Proof of Current Address (to re-enter a restricted area) |

CLOTHES & COMFORT

It's not easy leaving your wardrobe behind, especially if you have an emotional attachment to your clothes, but you need to focus on things that will keep you comfortable and safe:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy Shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable Shoes/Sneakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long Pants (sweats/work pants) | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-sleeved Shirts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> Hats/Gloves/Scarves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Socks and Underwear | |

Climate will play a factor in helping you choose what to bring; the following things can also come in handy in every situation:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag/Blanket | <input type="checkbox"/> Tent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighter/Matches | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AM/FM Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage bags/Ziploc bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries (For electronics that can be replaced: AA, AAA, C, D, small ones for hearing aids, etc.) | |

ELECTRONICS & DIGITAL

Let's assume you keep your phone on you at all times; if you have all your data backed up in the cloud, and you don't have the space or time, it's your call on whether or not you need the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phones/Phone chargers | <input type="checkbox"/> Laptops/Laptop chargers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tablets/Tablet Chargers | <input type="checkbox"/> External Hard Drives |

THINGS THAT ARE IRREPLACEABLE

When it comes to non-essential survival or comfort items, focus on the things that can't be replaced:

- Photos and photo albums with no digital equivalent (example: a deceased parent's wedding album)
 - Kids favorite dolls/toys
 - Family heirlooms and keepsakes (jewelry, a blanket knitted by your late grandmother)
 - Favorite items from your childhood (stuffed animal, trophy or award, newspaper clippings, school yearbooks)
 - Collectible collections (stamps, coins, baseball cards, portable artwork, mini-spoons)
 - Handwritten letters or cards from people you care about
 - Other: _____
-

THINGS YOU WILL NEED IN THE FUTURE/DIFFICULT TO REPLACE

If it's a matter of life and death, you can leave this stuff behind. But if you have the time and these things are accessible, take them with you to avoid hassles in the future:

- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card

Property Deeds or Rental Agreements:

- Real Estate
- Vehicles
- Other Major Physical Investments

Additional Licenses & Certificates:

- Marriage
- Firearms
- Professional (examples: medical, legal, diplomas)

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

If you store legal documents in your home, it's best to take them with you to avoid having to get new ones issued or re-creating them entirely:

- Will
- Advance Directive (Living Will and Health Care Proxy)
- DNR (for you or anyone in your care)
- Power Of Attorney
- Adoption Records
- Guardianship Papers
- Financial paperwork requiring physical documents (bearer bonds, actual stock certificates)

INSURANCE & RECOVERY EFFORTS

If you have any physical insurance policy paperwork or cards that are easily accessible, take them with you, just to be safe. Since most insurance transactions take place online, don't forget to bring the login details to access the information you'll need:

- Auto Insurance: _____
- Health Insurance: _____
- Home Insurance: _____
- Life Insurance: _____

TAKE PHOTOS OF YOUR HOME

Even though the evacuation is the priority at hand, you also might want to consider the aftermath and how to return your life back to normal after the emergency has passed. **Take as many photos of your home as possible** to help make filing insurance claims for any property damage go more smoothly.

Just walk around with your phone and start snapping. Have your family do the same to speed up the process and get as much documented as possible and make sure you upload these photos to the cloud or keep them safe.

NOTES & PERSONAL THOUGHTS

Use this section for any important information we may have missed.
