

FireWise Emergency Preparedness Tips



Disasters and emergencies of all types can happen anytime and anywhere. When an emergency strikes there may not be much time to respond. Proactive planning and preparation can be the key to surviving an emergency.

Be Prepared

Six basic items should be stocked in every home: *water, food, clothing/bedding, first aid kit, tools/supplies and special items*. Keep items most likely needed during an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container. Possible containers include a large covered storage bin, backpack or duffel bag.

Put items in airtight plastic bags and store the emergency kit in a convenient place known to all family members. Consider keeping a kit in your vehicle as well. Evaluate contents of the kit and family needs at least once a year. Replace items as needed. For additional information regarding an all hazards approach to preparedness call the

Meet and discuss as a family:

- Evacuation procedures
- Individual roles

Plan how the family will stay in contact if separated by disaster:

- Decide on two meeting places - one outside of the home and one outside of the neighborhood
- Choose an out-of-state friend or relative that will act as a point of contact for everyone

Meet with neighbors:

- Plan how everyone will work together
- Consider how to help neighbors with special needs
- Make plans for children at home if parents can't return to the area

Complete these steps:

- Post emergency phone numbers by every phone and program into cell phones
- Know how and when to shut off water, electricity and gas at main controls
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on each level of your home near bedrooms
- Make arrangements for animals, public shelters do not accept them

Personal safety should be the highest priority

- During an evacuation, immediately follow instructions from fire, police, and emergency officials
- Learn alternate ways out of the neighborhood - plan and rehearse an escape plan
- Make a list of items to take with you - remember, you may only have a few minutes
- If told to evacuate immediately, take only essential items:
 - Medications/Prescriptions
 - Identification
 - Eyeglasses, dentures, hearing aids
 - Financial Resources - cash, credit cards, checks, bank cards

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Assemble an emergency kit for your home and one for each car.

The emergency kit should include:

CLOTHING/BEDDING

- Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person.
- Sturdy shoes or work boots
- Hat and gloves
- Sunglasses
- Thermal underwear and rain gear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Appropriate clothing for the time of year.

SPECIAL NEEDS

- Important Documents kept in waterproof, portable container
 - Identification
 - Drivers License
 - Passport
 - Birth Certificate
 - Social Security Card
 - Insurance information including policy numbers and agents contact information
 - Homeowners/Renters
 - Health/Medical
 - Car
 - Home Inventory
 - Additional
 - Wills
 - Advanced Directives
 - Power of Attorney
 - Contracts
 - Bank Account Information
 - Health/Shot Records
 - Physician Contact Information
- Cash and change or travelers checks
- Important telephone numbers and email addresses

For Adults

- Denture needs
- Extra eye glasses
- Contact lenses and supplies
- Medications

- Oxygen

For Babies

- Formula/Bottles/Powdered Milk
- Medications
- Diapers

For Pets

- Extra food
- Medications
- Sanitation
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Toilet paper & towelettes
- Plastic garbage bags & ties
- Soap
- Personal hygiene items
- Disinfectant
- Household chlorine bleach

WATER

- Store in a location that will prevent water from freezing.
- Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as wax milk cartons or glass bottles.
- Change your stored water supply every six months so it stays fresh.
- Store one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation/sanitation).
- Keep at least a three day supply of water for each person in the household.

FOOD

- Store at least a three day supply of non-perishable food.
- Select foods that are compact, lightweight, require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water.
- Rotate stored food every six months.
- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables, juices, milk, soup (if powdered, store extra water).
- Staples – sugar, salt, pepper.
- High-energy foods – peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars and trail mix.
- Comfort/stress foods – cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops, instant coffee, and tea bags.

FIRST AID

- Sterile adhesive bandages
- Triangular bandages
- Sterile gauze pads (assorted sizes)
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Scissors

- Tweezers
- Needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Medicine dropper
- Safety pins (assorted sizes)
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Latex gloves (2 pair)
- Sunscreen
- Antihistamine
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid (for stomach upset)
- Prescription drugs

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

- Plastic cups, plates and utensils
- Battery operated radio & flashlights
- Extra batteries
- Non-electric can opener
- Utility knife
- Fire extinguisher – ABC type
- Tent
- Tarp
- Pliers
- Tape
- Compass
- Wrench to turn off gas and water
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic storage containers
- Signal flare
- Paper & pencil
- Needles & thread
- Whistle
- Plastic sheeting
- Deck of cards