



# EMERGENCY GO-BAGS

In the event you need to evacuate your home each member of your family should have a 72-hour GO-bag. The pack needs to be readily available and easy to carry. It needs to be personalized for that person.

Because you may be away from home when disaster strikes, you are advised to keep a GO-bag at work and in your vehicle.

There may seem to be some duplication with your Household Disaster Kit and your personal GO-bags. Public Health recommends that you keep them separate and independent. There may be a time when you have to evacuate after you have started utilizing your Household Disaster Kits. Stay out of the GO-bags unless it is an emergency.

**First, get a backpack for each member of your family that can carry one. Backpacks are affordable and readily available. Make sure they are durable and small enough that your child can carry it when packed. Put a name tag on each backpack. Every GO-bag should include (essential items are marked with an asterisks<\*> and bolded):**



- Food\***—enough for 72 hours (crackers, granola/cereal/protein bars, nuts, dried fruit, beef jerky, tuna packets, etc...)
- Water\*** (as much as you can practically carry—at least (5) 20oz bottles of water in each adult pack; (6) 8oz bottles for children—keep empty bottles and refill them when clean drinking water is available.)
- Portable radio and extra batteries
- First Aid Kit and handbook\***
- 5-day supply of any medications you take regularly and a copy of your prescriptions\***
- Whistle\*** (to alert rescuers to your location)
- Map of area (for locating shelters and evacuation routes)
- Personal hygiene supplies (including toilet paper, pre-moistened towelettes, hand sanitizer, toothbrush & toothpaste, feminine products, diapers)\***
- Emergency lighting (e.g. glow sticks, **flashlight\***, headlamp) and **extra batteries\***
- Large garbage bags & **Ziploc baggies\***
- One complete change of clothing\***
- Sturdy shoes\***, in case an evacuation requires walking long distances
- Dust mask
- Rain poncho\***
- Emergency blanket\*** (i.e. space blanket)
- Permanent marker\***, paper and duct tape\*
- Lighter or waterproof matches or both\***
- Utility knife\***
- Cash in small denominations\*** (\$20 in small bills, a roll of quarters and a pre-paid phone card)—remember, if there is no power, the ATM's won't work and cell phone towers may be down. Some markets may be open on a cash-only basis. Some pay phones may be operable.
- Copy of health insurance card and driver license or identification card
- Photos of family members for reunification purposes
- List of emergency contact phone numbers, as well as an out-of-area contact to serve as a rally point for your family\*.**
- Entertainment—cards, games, books, coloring pages, etc...

## Emergency Car Kit:

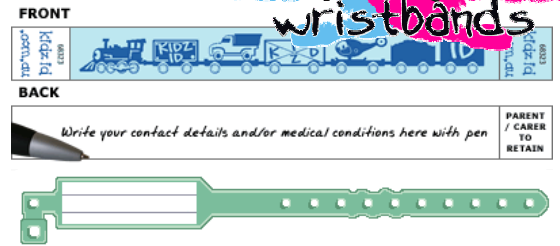
You should also keep a smaller version of your household disaster kit in your vehicle, in case you are commuting or traveling when disaster strikes.

- First aid kit and handbook
- Hand sanitizer/cleaner or pre-moistened towelettes
- Class ABC fire extinguisher
- Portable radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Non-perishable food & bottled water (about 4 liters in your car)
- Reflectors/flares
- Tools for minor auto repairs; including your tire repair tools
- Short rubber hose for siphoning
- Shovel
- Jumper cables
- Extra pair of sturdy shoes
- Blankets
- Duct tape
- Lighter or waterproof matches or both
- Utility knife
- Other (paper, pencils, maps, tissues, pre-moistened towelettes, plastic bags (garbage and Ziploc), permanent marker, toilet paper/paper towel roll



## More Emergency GO-Kit Tips:

- Children's GO-bags should have an emergency contact list and current family photo inside the backpack. It should have the child's name and date of birth, address, guardian's names and contact information, the name and contact information for a friend or family member out-of-area, any medical conditions, and any medications that must be administered. **This is necessary in the event you and your child are separated.** You could also include a favorite toy, cards or book.
- Several companies have designed single use identification wristbands that are waterproof, tear-proof, hypoallergenic and comfortable to wear. These bands have helped greatly to reunite parents/guardians with lost children. Hospital wristbands can also be used.
- Remember to make a GO-bag for your pet (see Tips for Pet Owners). Keep in mind that most emergency shelters (for people) do not accept pets.
- You may want to make up an inventory list for each pack. That way when you check it every six months or so, you will know right away if something is missing and needs replacing.



## Shelter Safety...

- Do not let your children out of your site. Never leave your backpacks unattended. Keep in mind that the majority of people at a shelter are not nearly as prepared as you are. Keep what you have in your backpacks to yourself. Be aware of your surroundings. Remember, your responsibility is to your family first and then others.



Liz Roll/FEMA Photo