

# Climate Action Toolkits

## Emergency Preparedness



# Evacuation Preparedness



The Climate Initiative

# Emergency Basics to Consider

If you are evacuating, no matter where you go or what the cause, you should consider bringing the following with you.

- Personal care items like medications, prescriptions, personal hygiene, extra clothes, etc.
- Prepare Personal Documents like insurance, government documents, methods of identification.
- Personal information like hand written phone numbers, physical and email addresses if you do not have access to technology.

## PERSONAL CARE INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

Having these items on hand and centralized will allow you to evacuate more quickly.

If you are evacuating, the location you are evacuating to may already have the following and you may or may not need to bring it with you.

### WATER

It is recommended to have a bare minimum of 1 gallon of water per day per person (and pet) for a minimum of 3 days. Keep in mind that that singular gallon accounts for drinking, cleaning and cooking, and is only the bare minimum recommendation. Additionally, consider having water filters + supplies to boil water on hand to help increase your ability to have access to clean water.

### FOOD

It is recommended to have a minimum of 3 days worth of food on hand. Dried goods, dehydrated foods, canned foods and non-perishables have a long shelf life. Consider allergies, special needs, and pets. Have a can opener in your emergency bag. Consider whether you will have access to a kitchen to actually cook and refrigerate food or not?

### POWER

Will you continue to have power at the location you are evacuating to? Critical infrastructure might be damaged and you could lose electrical power. Is it also at risk of losing power? Back up power like batteries, wind-up electronics or solar powered batteries can help you maintain power when it is lost.

### FIRST AID

First aid supplies are vital to have on hand in the event that you are unable to quickly access medical attention. For your personal safety and those of your household, having an up-to-date first aid kit is highly recommended. The more comprehensive the first aid kit is, the better.

## ALSO CONSIDER: PETS

- Wherever you are going- are you able to bring your pets with you?
- Are pets allowed at all local evacuation shelters?
- If not, are there evacuation shelters that specifically allow pets to be brought?



# Centralizing What You Already Have

Sourcing items for your kit can feel like a financial burden and it is likely that there will be things that need to be purchased to build your kit up. Luckily, there are a lot of items that can be gathered that might already exist your own home, and there are plenty of items that can be sourced from dollar stores or at affordable prices.

When needing to evacuate, time is of the essence having these items already centralized can help you evacuate the area sooner, and avoid long lines, or shortages of supplies.

## Do you have old or extra:

- Large Storage Bins
- Backpacks
- Notebooks
- Pens/Permanent markers/Chalk
- Hairbands
- Chapstick
- Personal Hygiene products
- Phone Chargers
- Batteries
- Matches/Lighters
- Umbrellas
- Ponchos
- Duct Tape
- Superglue
- Deck of Cards
- Can openers
- Whistles
- Baby Wipes
- Menstrual Products
- Masks
- Camping Gear
- Towels/Blankets
- Hand Sanitizer
- Gloves- Latex, Gardening, Dish
- Pet Supplies

## Personal Information to Gather/Centralize

- Keep a notebook and write down:
  - Names, numbers, addresses of anyone you might need to keep in contact with the event of an emergency
  - Any pertinent medical information- including allergies or medical procedures or lifesaving medications that are relevant to household members
- Physical photographs of household members or other people that you are likely to look for in the event that you get separated in an emergency
- Photograph or scan copies of important personal documents, government documents, insurance and store them in a USB or email them to yourself and store them in a special folder so they are readily available.
  - Have multiple ways to access these forms in case you lose access to one.

# Emergency Alert Systems

Be aware of the Emergency Alert Systems that are available to you. Emergency Alert Systems often send time sensitive information that update you about developing situations.

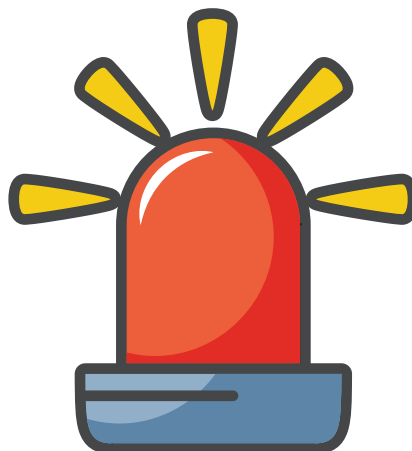
**If you are in the United States, download the American Red Cross Emergency: Severe Weather App**

The American Red Cross Emergency Severe Weather App is a free weather app that helps you prepare for winter weather, earthquakes, wildfires, and much more. With a dynamic to-do list, you'll know what actions to take to get ready. And if a disaster impacts your location, you can easily find open Red Cross shelters with our interactive map.

**Available in English + Spanish**



Apple



Android

# Evacuation Routes

It is important to have and know as many ways as possible to evacuate. Depending on the cause of evacuation- wildfires, floods, storms etc. your "normal routes" might not be available.

## Considerations When Evacuating

- Are you going to a family or friends house or an evacuation site?
- How many people are you leaving with?
- Do you have pets or animals?
- Traffic- the longer you wait to leave the worse it will be
- Gassing up/Charging for your car- Will you be possibly waiting in long lines for gas?
- Is there anyone you will need to pick up because they don't have a car/can not drive?

## Before you leave, check the 5 P's

- People
  - Who are all the people you need with you, to check in with and meet up with?
- Prescriptions
  - What prescriptions do people in your party need access to?
- Papers
  - What forms of government Id and insurance papers do you need?
- Personal Needs
  - What items do you need to make sure your basic needs are met?
- Precious Items
  - What items do you not want lost? What personal items are important to YOU?

## You should:

- Have a network of people you can check in with and will check-in with you if you need to evacuate.
- Establish meeting locations.
- Have as many routes to get to where you are going as possible- traffic will be high, it will be beneficial to avoid as much of it as you can.
- If you know ahead of time that evacuation is possible (You know a wildfire is in the area, a hurricane is coming) you should make sure. your car has fuel or is charged up.
- Not wait longer than you have to in order to begin leaving.
- Have everything you need to take prepared once evacuation becomes a possibility.



# Personal Care Networks

According to the CDC, over 61 million Americans have disabilities. For the millions of Americans that have cognitive, physical, medical and sensory disabilities, emergencies are particularly difficult. Luckily, there are resources out there to help individuals with disabilities get the help that they need to prepare beforehand and get help during a disaster. **HOWEVER**, Personal Care Networks are beneficial to people of all abilities and can be utilized by anyone.

The following tips are per Red Cross, FEMA and the CDC:

- Think about the places where you spend the most time (Home, school, work etc), and make a network of friends, family, co workers neighbors etc that you have spoken to ahead of time, and are people that you can trust to check on you to see if you need assistance.
- The more people in your network, the better in case one person is not there in a time of need, you have others to rely on.
- Make plans for children and adults who have difficulties in chaotic or unfamiliar environments.
- Members of your network should be knowledgeable of your capabilities, needs and be able to provide help in a timely matter.
- If you use adaptive or assistive technologies, create a back up plan with your personal support network in the event that they are lost or destroyed.
- Make sure you are wearing all medical alert tags and bracelets.
- If you have a communication disability, consider 1) carrying a lanyard with a card 2) printed cards 3) storing information on your device to inform first responders any important information they may need right away as well as the best way to communicate with you.
- Inform your support network where you have emergency supplies in your home, workspace or car. This may be medical supplies or adaptive tools. Consider giving a trusted person a key to your home.
- Contact local emergency management offices to find out if your city or country has a registry for people with disabilities to sign up for in order to receive specialized targeted assistance during a disaster.
- If you are on life sustaining medical treatment, keeps notes of more than one facility that would be able to help you.
- With trusted members of your network, make sure they have either a physical or electronic copy of any medical information that is important to let medical professionals be aware of.
- If you rely on accessible transportation in the event of an evacuation, check with local transit providers + your emergency management agency to ID accessible options
- Keep a physical list of nearest medical facilities, local hospitals and transport, if necessary.
- If you rely on medical equipment in your home that needs electricity, call your power provider ahead of time to put you a list for priority power restoration.