

Evacuation Grab and Go Kit

What If You Had To Evacuate Your Home In A Hurry?

What would you take? (Evacuation Grab and Go Kit)

Many of us have assembled go kits for our radio equipment and other items we would use to serve others in an emergency situation. But how many of us have put together a list of item we would take if we had to evacuate our home or apartment. Particularly if it were possible our home or apartment may not survive the disaster for which we are being evacuated. Many of you have likely put together a list in case of a hurricane, but what about those who do not plan or do not need to evacuate for a hurricane. What if there was a disaster such as a fire, hazardous chemical release, nuclear disaster, etc. that required you to evacuate. If you only had 5 minutes, 30 minutes, or even 1 hour to evacuate, what would you take? How do you prepare a list of those items?

Think about the following four questions when preparing your list:

- What would you need to start over if everything was destroyed?
- What would you need to survive a few days or a week?
- What is important to you?
- What can you fit in your evacuation vehicle?

If you are like me your list will be random at first and ideas will continue to pop into your head for days. Get you family together and brain storm. Just righting down what comes to mind. Involve your children, they may think of things you don't and they will come up with things that are essential to them (particularly if they are young) which you may leave off the list. Later you will organize and prioritize the list.

- List the items that are essential then those that are important.
- I recommend breaking the list into four groups: 5min, 30min, 2hrs, 12hrs evacuation. Essential items go into the 5 min evacuation time list. As you refine your list, items may move from one list to another. An item should only appear on one list. If you have time, you move from one list to the next.
- As you finalize the list, indicate where each item is located. You will likely figure out ways to simplify you task by putting things together or over time put items such as photos, documents, etc. on a disk, USB external hard drive, or flash drives. If possible have a copy of these documents stored in a location out of your geographical area, say with a family member or relative. This will save on what you have to pull together. I highly recommend that you keep copies or scans of essential documents on a flash drive that is in a water proof container and is easy to grab.
- Determine what you can actually fit in your vehicle and refine your list.
- Post your list on the back or your pantry door. You may want to give a copy of the list to a neighbor so they could grab the essential items if you are not at home when the evacuation takes place.
- Plan the list with or without the aid of anyone else. You may have family members at home to help you or you may be alone.

Some example lists:

Evacuation time 5 Minutes

- Wallet or purse
- Car/house keys
- Cell phone, charger & car charger
- Adequate clothing for the weather conditions
- Prescriptions
- Extra contacts or glasses
- Medical devices (wheel chair, hearing aid, retainer, etc.)
- Laptop or backup disks
- Computer CPU
- Important documents (should already be in one container)
- 72 Hour kit with water/food/clothes/toiletries/
- Family photo CD's/money, etc.
- Baby bag with extra food/formula
- Pet food, water & dish
- Pet leash (need this to walk dog or for shelters)
- Pet carrier

Evacuation time 30 Minutes (add these items to 5 minute list)

- Photo albums, family portraits, preferably on flash drive
- Case of bottled water
- Sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, towels.
- Tent
- Extra batteries
- Battery powered TV/radio
- More clothes
- Toys, activities to keep kids occupied
- Kids memory things

We have seen and heard of disasters in our area over the last several weeks which should make the usefulness of this guidance clear. I am sure many wished they had put together such a plan, so Be Prepared.