

Get Ready :: Get a kit in 3 steps!

Planning Phase

Ask yourself...

- What kind of disasters occur in my area?
 - Has anything changed that might change these hazard's risk?
 - How long do these hazards last?
 - How large of an area do they effect?
 - Do these hazards reoccur on a routine basis?
 - How much time do I have to react to a hazard?
 - Am I able to shelter in place or do I need to evacuate during this hazard?
- (Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], 2006)



Gathering Phase

Food & Water

American Red Cross [ARC], (2009) says you need a 3 day supply of food and one gallon of water per day per person if you are evacuating and a two week supply of food and one gallon of water per day per person if you are sheltering in place!

Disaster First Aid

The US Dept. Of Homeland Security [DHS], (2010a) recommends you keep basic hygiene products, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, moist towelettes and bar soap in your kit. But don't forget prescriptions (ARC, 2009) and other first aid items like gauze pads and examination gloves. (Human Technologies, Inc., 2003)

Communications

NOAA Weather Radios, battery operated two-way radios, and cell phones are useful ways of keeping in touch with the world outside of your shelter.(ARC, 2009)

Tools

Plastic sheeting, Duct tape and scissors are great tools to have on hand incase you need to shelter in place. But don't forget those work gloves and a Multipurpose tool if need to remove debris or shut off utilities during a disaster. (ARC, 2009)

Pet supplies

Fido and Fluffy need to be prepared too. In addition to food and extra water, keep a spare collar and leash in your kit, and don't forget the crate – many shelters require them for pets. (ARC, 2009) FEMA (1998) and the Red Cross recommend that you keep a current photograph of you pet and your current vet records together in your kit. Don't forget to make a first aid kit for your pet and we can't forget about their sanitation needs, so pack some cat litter or doggy cleanup bags.

Storage Phase

The Department of Homeland Security (2010b) reminds us to routinely check our kit for expiration of perishable items like food and medicine, and exchange water to prevent it from going stale.

Disasters don't just strike at home, consider making a kit for your office and vehicle. (DHS, 2010a)



For more information :

- <http://www.bankscert.org/> - Banks County (GA) Community Emergency Response Team
- <http://www.ready.gov/> - Department of Homeland Security preparedness web site
- <http://www.redcross.org/> - American Red Cross
- <http://training.fema.gov/IS/> - Federal Emergency Management Agency's Independent Study Program
- <http://citizencorps.gov/> - Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Team web site.

References :

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- Federal Emergency Management Agency. (1998). *Animals in Disasters Module A Awareness And Preparedness*. (IS10) Emmitsburg, MD: Emergency Management Institute.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency. (2006). *Emergency Planning Independent Study*. (IS235). Emmitsburg, MD: Emergency Management Institute.
- Human Technology, Inc. (2003). *Community Emergency Response Team. Instructors Guide*. McLean, VA: Human Technology, Inc.
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2010a). *Emergency Supply List*. Washington, DC: Ready.gov.
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2010b). *Preparing your Pets for Emergencies Makes Sense. Get Ready Now*. (stock no. READY-RP-0406-01). Washington, DC: Ready.gov

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