



In an emergency situation, such as a natural disaster, preparing items beforehand can help keep you and your family safe until you can get assistance.

## Basic Kit

### • Essential items needed for all situations – FOOD – WATER – CLOTHING.

- Canned food: 3-5 days worth – don't forget a non-electric can opener
- Water to last 3-5 days -- about 1 gallon of water per person per day
- Any medications needed by family members (e.g., heart or high blood pressure medication, insulin, contact lens supplies)
- A first aid kit and first aid manual.
- Extra clothing

### • Other items to bring:

- A battery-powered radio
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger
- Mess kits or paper dining products (e.g., cups, plates, napkins)
- Personal hygiene supplies (e.g., soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, garbage bags, etc.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Sleeping bags or extra blankets
- Dust masks
- Duct tape
- Cash or traveler's checks

### • Additional items for infants:

- Bottles, formula, drinking water
- Diapers, ointments
- Medications

### • Special items for children:

- A favorite toy or blanket
- Colors and paper to help keep them busy while in the shelter

### • Don't forget items for pets.

- See 'Pet Emergency Plan and Supply Kit' handout (next page).

### • Place your kit in a central location.

- Let all of your family know where it is.
- Check the contents regularly to ensure fresh and complete supplies.

### • Gather important family documents:

- Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks, bonds
- Passports, social security cards
- Immunization records
- Bank account numbers
- Credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods
- Important telephone numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates, social security numbers)
- Keep these documents in a waterproof, fireproof, portable container.

## Seasonal Items

### • Spring/Summer

- Mosquito protection: Insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin, or long sleeved and long-legged clothing
- Sunscreen, wide brim hat

### • Winter

- Extra blankets
- Hats, gloves, scarves
- Shovel, sand or cat litter

## Emergency Kit for Your Car

### • In some situations, you may be away from home and in your car.

- A full gas tank full in case of emergency
- High energy foods (e.g., peanut butter, crackers, granola bars, trail mix) and water
- Flares, booster cables, tools, maps
- First aid kit, blankets
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Seasonal items: sunscreen, shovels

## For More Information

### Ready America: Get a Kit (FEMA)

<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/>

### Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit (FEMA)

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/supplykit.shtm>

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Pets can also be affected by a number of hazard situations. While preparing your family emergency plan, don't forget to include plans for your pets.

## Before a Disaster or Emergency

- **Make a preparedness kit for your pet.**
  - Leash and collar: clearly labeled with your pet's name, your name and a contact number
  - Transport carrier: clearly labeled with your name and a contact number
  - Food and water (5-7 day supply) – don't forget bowls and a can opener
  - Any medications for the animal
  - Copies of your pet's medical and vaccination records (e.g., rabies certificate)
  - Your veterinarian's name and phone number
  - Paper towels, newspapers, plastic trash bags, disinfectant (e.g., bleach) for waste clean-up
  - Toys or blankets the pet will find familiar
- **Provide for the special needs of unique pets.**
  - Birds/lizards: blanket to keep cage warm, plant mister to hydrate feathers
  - Snakes: pillowcase to transport, heating pad for warmth, water bowl to soak
  - Pocket pets (hamsters/gerbils): cage/bedding material, water bottles
- **Store items in a sturdy container that can be easily carried.**
  - Covered trash container, duffle bag, plastic tote, bucket
- **Make sure pets are current on all vaccinations.**
- **Identification**
  - All animals should have some sort of identification (collar with tag, microchip).
  - Take a photo of the pet and keep it with the medical records.
  - Include any proof of ownership materials (e.g., registration information, proof of purchase, adoption records, microchip information).
- **Practice loading your pet into their cage, carrier, or trailer.**
- **Identify pet friendly locations in case of the need to evacuate.**
  - Board with friends/relatives in a safe area.
  - Check with your local animal shelter, boarding facility, or veterinary clinic.
  - Pet friendly hotels - [www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com)

## During a Disaster or Emergency

- **If you are sheltering in place:**
  - Bring your pet indoors.
  - Place them inside a carrier or cage to help reduce their stress.
- **If you need to evacuate:**
  - Take your pets with you whenever possible.
  - Allow plenty of time to catch and "load" your pet.
  - Make sure your animal has identification securely fastened to them.
  - Call your prearranged animal evacuation site.
- **If you must leave your pets behind:**
  - NEVER leave animals tied up outside.
  - Leave them untied in an interior room with adequate air and no windows (e.g., bathroom).
  - Purchase a self-feeder in advance and leave enough food and water for 3-5 days.
  - Leave a faucet dripping as a water source; keep the sink drain open.
  - Leave a notice on your front door with the location and type of pets inside, their names and your contact phone number.

## After the Disaster or Emergency

- **A pet's behavior may change before, during and even after a disaster.**
  - In the first few days after the disaster, leash your pets when they go outside.
  - Maintain close contact to help them readjust to the changed environment.

## For More Information

### Saving the Whole Family (AVMA)

Booklet to help make disaster preparations for your pets.

[http://www.avma.org/disaster/saving\\_family.asp](http://www.avma.org/disaster/saving_family.asp)

### Disaster Preparedness for Pets (HSUS)

Brochure to help you plan for the needs of your pets during an emergency.

[http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/disaster/disaster\\_preparedness\\_pets.pdf](http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/disaster/disaster_preparedness_pets.pdf)

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