

Immediate Emergency Evacuation

The sheriff just showed up at your door and said you have to leave due to a forest fire or impending landslide. You have 15 minutes to pack a vehicle and leave. What do you do now? You can run around your house and look at everything and try to decide what to take. Or you can take out your plan that lists important items, where they are in the house and into which vehicle they go. You can go one step further and designate who will load the items into each vehicle so everyone knows their responsibility.

Example List:

Immediate

Emergency cash (car)

Bankbook from desk (car)

Credit cards in wallet (on person)

Photo boxes from closet (truck)

Tax forms and important papers from filing cabinet (truck)

Guns and ammo from office (truck)

Phase Two

Jewelry from bedroom (car)

Stamp collection from office (car)

Computer CPU, Monitor (truck)

You should make this a multi-staged list with the most important items listed first. The following stages will list other items that will be taken if you have additional time. Remember to make sure that the items you are listing will fit into the vehicle listed. The 60" plasma TV will NOT fit in the Volkswagen.

Emergency Money

The first item in this example is "emergency cash". You should have a minimum of \$100.00 in \$1.00's and \$5.00 on-hand for an emergency. If there is no power, there will be no ATM's, credit card readers or cash registers. It is better to give someone \$4.00 for a \$3.15 item than to give them a \$20.00 bill.

Vehicle Preparation

One thing that can help and really speed up an immediate evacuation is to have some emergency supplies pre-loaded in your vehicle. These include a first aid kit, some basic tools, a blanket and a "Go-Bag". The "Go Bag" can be a simple back-pack containing a pair of pants, shirt, socks, shoes, change of underwear, sweater, gloves and a rain poncho. This will provide a complete change of clothing plus some extra protection for warmth and to remain dry. You can add a couple of bottles of water and some granola bars too it and have a nice 24-hour emergency kit. It can also come in very handy if you are stranded on the road in a storm.

Emergency Notifications

Have an emergency rallying point for evacuations so everyone in the household knows where to meet if they cannot return to the house. Make the rallying point a good distance from your residence in the event the evacuation area is a significant size.

Out-of-Area Point-of-Contact

In the event that you are separated from loved ones in an emergency, have a person that people can contact who is out of the area. All members of the household should have the Point-of-Contacts telephone number so they can call and let that person know where they are located and their status. There is nothing more stressful than wondering where a loved one is located and if they are alright. A simple phone call to the Point-of-Contact can relieve that stressful situation.