

# Be Responsible. Be Ready.

YOU NEED TO THINK OF THIS AS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO-DO LIST YOU WILL EVER TAKE ON. Officials tell us that in the event of a disaster we need to be prepared to be self-sufficient for 3 to 5 days. We hope that none of us ever has to face a major hurricane, flood or terrorist attack. BUT just in case, it's our responsibility to be ready. Remember it will be easy to do these things now. It will be almost impossible after the fact.

- Put a Kit together.**  
This kit will allow you to be sheltered at home for 3 to 5 days. The contents for a simple kit are on the back of this card.
- Put a Go-Kit Together.**  
Same idea, only smaller and portable, in case you have to leave your house in a hurry.
- Buy a battery-powered radio and extra batteries.**  
If power goes out, so does your TV, radio, and computer – AND any connection to the outside world.
- Have a plan and hold a family meeting.**  
Formulate your plans: one for staying in your house, the other if you need to leave it. Talk about the responsibilities each family member will have and make certain that everyone knows what to do.
- Pick a meeting place.**  
Discuss an emergency occurring during different possible scenarios such as you're at work, the kids are at a friend's house, or your spouse is running errands. Determine the location, in addition to your home, for family members to meet.
- Arrange for an out-of-town connection.**  
Sometimes local telephone communications are knocked out before long-distance lines are. Pick an out-of-town relative or friend to be the contact person for everyone.
- Print a Family Emergency Communications Card for all family members.**  
Make sure everyone in your family carries one with them at all times.
- Know how to shut off water, gas, electricity and any other utilities in your home.**  
Gas leaks are just one of the dangers. If you have to turn everything off, make sure you know how.

## The Kit

Having a disaster kit is essential. It should contain provisions that will allow you and your family to be self-sufficient in your home for 3 to 5 days. We recommend the following contents:

- Water**  
One gallon of water per person, per day.
- Food**  
Ready-to-eat prepackaged or canned foods such as peanut butter, granola bars, cookies, cereal, tea, coffee and juices.
- Flashlight with extra batteries**
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio**  
The Emergency Alert Broadcast Stations are: WIYY-FM 97.9; WBAL-AM 1090; WTOP-AM 1500.
- First-aid kit including scissors**
- Medications, both prescription and over-the-counter**
- Special needs for infants and others requiring individual health and safety items**
- Trash bags with ties**
- Blankets, sleeping bags**
- Soap, toilet paper, bleach**
- Credit cards and cash**
- Change of clothes for each member of the household**

## The Portable Go-Kit

If you have to leave your house in a hurry, you won't have time to pack. You should have all of the items listed above, just in smaller amounts. AND, you should have important papers and documents (for example: insurance policy numbers and social security numbers for family members) in a portable and secure container.

## For More Information

We encourage you to find out more about how to be responsible and ready. For details on what you can do, go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

**READY**

Be responsible. Be ready.

Brought to you by the Community Emergency Response Network (CERN)  
Howard County, Maryland in cooperation with Howard County Government.  
[www.cern.us](http://www.cern.us)