

READY OR NOT

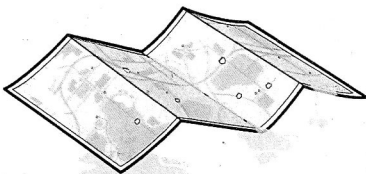
How to pack a go bag

As climate change exposes more people to heat waves, hurricanes, and wildfires, the “go bag”—filled with the things you’ll need in the event of a hasty evacuation—has become trendy. You can find plenty of prestocked go bags for every emergency, including the zombie apocalypse. (A company called Preppi sells luxury ones with bergamot body cleanser and deluxe shortbread.) But since you know best what you will need in a crisis, why not make your own? Contents, naturally, should reflect your region and medical needs. Start with the following items, keep your car’s gas tank at least half full or the battery charged up, and you’ll be good to go. —Katie O’Reilly



FOOD AND WATER

Only a small amount; it’s just to get you from home to a shelter. Pack snacks you like—they’re good for morale. Set up a calendar alert so you can check expiration dates and replenish your supply.



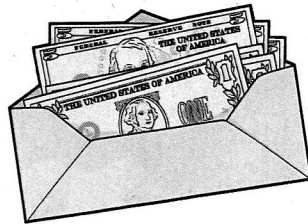
WATERPROOF MAP

Bring a map of the area where you live in case you get lost. Don’t expect to have internet service on your phone.



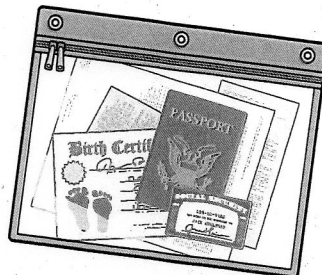
N95 MASKS

Unlike paper versions, these masks will protect your respiratory system from smoke and other airborne particles.



CASH IN SMALL BILLS

If the electricity is out, credit cards are useless. Stock up on \$1s and \$5s.



COPIES OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Include birth certificates, Social Security cards, medical prescriptions, bank account info, and insurance policies. (You could also store this info on your phone.)

STURDY BAG

Backpack, duffel, or rolling suitcase

FLASHLIGHT OR HEAD LAMP

BATTERIES

PORTABLE CELLPHONE CHARGER

Ideally solar

MATCHES

Go waterproof

GOGGLES

GLOVES

WHISTLE

Pick a bright-colored one that floats

CHANGE OF CLOTHES

Including socks, underwear, and perhaps a windbreaker

WATER PURIFICATION TABLETS

EXTRA EYEGLASSES OR CONTACT LENSES AND SOLUTION

SMALL TENT

In case you can’t make it to a shelter

EMERGENCY RADIO

Preferably hand-crank or solar

TOILET PAPER

PET SUPPLIES

Leash, carrier, food, medication

ROLL OF DUCT TAPE

Mends everything except a broken heart