



Image: NOAA GOES satellite, sequence image, Hurricane Andrew 1992.

## Creating a Disaster Supply Kit

A disaster supply kit is a collection of basic items that members of a household may need in the event of a disaster. A disaster supply kit is a useful tool when you evacuate, as well as making you as safe as possible in your home.

- **Water** - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- **Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days**
  - non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
  - foods for infants or the elderly
  - snack foods
  - non-electric can opener
  - cooking tools / fuel / paper plates / plastic utensils
- **Blankets, Pillows, etc.**
- **Clothing** - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- **First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs**
- **Special Items** - for babies and the elderly
- **Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes**
- **Flashlight / Batteries**
- **Radio** - Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- **Telephones** - Fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a not cordless telephone
- **Cash (with small bills) and Credit Cards** – Banks/ATMs may not be available
- **Keys**
- **Toys, Books and Games**
- **Important documents** - in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag, include insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- **Tools** - keep a set with you during the storm
- **Vehicle fuel tanks filled**
- **Pet care items**
  - proper identification / immunization records / medications
  - ample supply of food and water
  - a carrier/cage and muzzle/leash

**Maintaining Your Disaster Supplies Kit.** Just as important as putting your supplies together is maintaining them so they are safe to use when needed. Here are some tips to keep your supplies ready:

- Keep canned foods in a dry place where the temperature is cool.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers to protect from pests and to extend its shelf life.
- Throw out any canned good that becomes swollen, dented, or corroded.
- Use foods before they go bad, and replace them with fresh supplies.
- Place new items at the back of the storage area and older ones in the front.
- Change stored food and water supplies every 6 months. Be sure to write the date.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family needs change.
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers, such as an unused trashcan, camping backpack, or duffel bag.

*Source: NOAA, National Hurricane Center, FEMA, and Gowrie Group. This information is advisory in nature. No liability is assumed by reason of the information in this document. Questions - Gowrie Group at 800.262.8911, [info@gowrie.com](mailto:info@gowrie.com).*