



Creating an Evacuation Plan

The time may come that you need to evacuate your home and when that time comes you may not have very long to do it. The following outlines an evacuation plan for you to develop for your tribe. Understand you may be evacuating for various reasons, if your home is on fire you have different priorities than if there is an emergency situation outside that has made your home and community unsafe. Consider all scenarios and compartmentalize your supplies and what you want to have available to take with you and under what circumstances.

Put your evacuation plan in writing and make sure each member of your tribe has a copy in the BOB, GHB and EDC kits. Always store documents in a waterproof package such as a ziplock bag.

1 – What supplies to take with you?

If you are leaving your home consider these things:

- What do you need to survive on my own for at least three days? These supplies should be in your BOB.
- What items in addition to those in my BOB do you need to take?
- What important items can you not afford to take and how will you secure them in your home while you are away? Is there somewhere else you can store them?

BOB

The bug out bag is the most critical group of supplies you have and should be designed to allow you to survive on your own for at least three days. See separate BOB checklist for supplies to consider and include the following as part of your evacuation plan:

- Have a BOB readily available for each member of your tribe and routinely inventory them against their checklist to assure all items are available and have not expired.
- Make sure every BOB has a copy of your evacuation plan, communications plan, a compass and map of the area.
- Add any last-minute critical items such as medicines and prescriptions.
- Fill any water containers that may be empty.
- Add any additional food items if appropriate.
- Design your BOB so you are able to carry it for a considerable distance if necessary.

Other Supplies

If you have the space and the means to transport additional supplies, consider the following in addition to your BOB. It is very important to remember you may need to evacuate your vehicle so maintain critical supplies needed for survival in your BOB and be prepared to part with any additional supplies you take with you if necessary!

- Extra water and food items.
- A tent, sleeping pad, and sleeping bag.
- Camping stove and cooking utensils.
- Additional flashlights and other gear.
- Extra communications devices such as radio or walkie talkie set.
- Personal protection items.

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- Valuables, family heirlooms, photo albums, important papers, and other items as appropriate and depending on the situation.

2 – Where are you going?

- Create a list of locations, in a preferred order, where you can take shelter. Label each location in a simple easy to remember format such as, “Area 1 Aunt Barb’s”.
 - Consider local places like a friend or family members property, churches, schools, community centers and government buildings.
 - Consider a place nearby such as a local hotel or friend’s house.
 - Consider a nearby place such as a neighborhood park or school close by if you are waiting for others in your tribe to join you.
 - Include a location or two outside of town or in another town away from your immediate surroundings.
 - Define transportation routes including alternate routes to each location.
 - Include contact name, address, phone number, and email for each location.
 - Have each location entered into each person’s cell phone contact list.
 - Print the list and include as part of your written evacuation plan. Assure each person has a copy in each of their kits.
- Remember in an emergency that roads may be unusable due to heavy traffic, stalled cars, debris, or other situations. Assure you have locations that are accessible by walking, you are prepared to shelter overnight, and have a properly supplied BOB if you need to travel for multiple days.
- Include the following info, provided by FEMA, as part of your evacuation plan: Text “Shelter” and a 5 digit “zip code”, example “Shelter 12345”, to 43362 and they will notify you of any available emergency shelters in that area. Or text “DRC” and a 5 digit “zip code” to 43362 to find a disaster recovery center after a disaster.
- Consider downloading the FEMA app located [here](#).

Situational Awareness

In an emergency situation it is likely that predators will be more aggressive than usual as they suspect police and first responders are less available. Depending on the situation and your environment this could put you and your tribe in serious danger of being attacked or injured. This is especially true for those on foot and carrying supplies.

Consider the following:

- Be vigilant in your situational awareness [SA].
- Have personal protection items readily available.
- Avoid areas with crowds and groups of people as much as possible.
- Practice your evacuations to define the best and safest routes and potential areas of refuge.
- Do not draw attention to yourself or your supplies.
 - Uses lights only as needed.
 - Limit the use of fires unless absolutely necessary.
 - Limit loud noises and radio broadcasts as much as possible.
- Review and practice SA and personal protection concepts in Lesson 6.

Before you Leave

- Once you have your supplies ready to leave your home, do a final home inventory by walking through your home, take pictures and video if appropriate, and secure and lock all windows and doors.
- Pull the blinds or shades on all windows.
- Adjust the thermostat to an efficient setting.
- Notify your out of town contact of where you are going. Notify the same contact any time you change locations.
- Dump any food in the refrigerator, freezer, or elsewhere that will spoil in the event of a power outage and remove trash from the house.
- Run the dishwasher.

3 – Communications

- See separate checklist on creating a communications plan in Lesson 8 and include a copy of your communications plan as part of your evacuation plan.
 - Include emergency contact numbers including a trusted out of town contact you can all contact to relay information to each other in the event you cannot contact each other.
 - Assure each member of your tribe has a hard copy of your communication plan in each of their kits.
- Remember, in an emergency cell phone communication may be impossible. Text messages may have a better chance of getting through; use simple messages such as “Going to Area 2”.
- Consider code words that mean something to your tribe or for use in emergencies.

4 – Special Needs

- How will you carry enough supplies for those who cannot carry their own?
- Plan on a place to safely house any persons that cannot travel.
- How will you transport those that are physically handicapped?

5 – Pets

- Create a BOB for your pets. Consider a pack or saddle bag for your dog if appropriate. Include:
 - Carrier for your pets. Even if your pet is well trained a secure carrier could be valuable if you have room for it.
 - Food and medications.
 - Food and water bowls.
 - Litterbox for cats if necessary.
 - Important registration and vaccination papers. Include a printed picture and description of the animal.
 - Extra leash or length of appropriate cordage.
- Check your destinations to assure they are pet friendly. The following are resources for finding pet-friendly hotels and other locations.
 - www.bringfido.com or call 877-411-FIDO
 - www.dogfriendly.com or call 888-281-5170
 - www.pet-friendly-hotels.net or call 866-966-3046
 - www.petswelcom.com
 - www.tripswithpets.com

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- Have a way to transport your pets, as necessary.
- Plan on a place to safely leave your pets if you cannot take them with you.

6 – Practice

Practice carrying your BOB and packing other supplies into your vehicle to assure you have the proper supplies and are able to transport them effectively. Be careful not to pack too much gear that you may not need or use.

Consider storing gear at your evacuation locations if possible. If you plan to travel to a friend's homestead for instance, perhaps you could store a cache of supplies there?

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