Water and food are essential in an emergency since it may be days before rescue workers can reach you. Some of the following items may make a time of crisis more comfortable.

### Basic Supplies and Tools

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery powered radio and extra batteries
- Plastic garbage bags, ties and toilet paper for personal sanitation
- First aid kit
- Map of the area for evacuation or for locating shelters
- A whistle to signal for help
- Moist towelettes
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book
- Mess kits, or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Cash or traveler’s checks, change (if the power is out the ATM won’t work)
- Utility knife
- Paper towels
- Fire extinguisher: small canister, ABC type
- Tube tent/tarp
- Pliers
- Compass
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Signal flare
- Paper, pencil
- Shut-off wrench (to turn off household gas and water)
- Shovel and other useful tools
- Plastic sheeting, duct tape
- Dust mask and work gloves

### Sanitation

- Plastic garbage bags, ties and toilet paper for personal sanitation
- Feminine hygiene supplies
- Personal hygiene supplies
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Disinfectant
- Household chlorine bleach

### Important Family Documents

- Keep copies of important family records such as insurance policies, identification, financial, and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container.

Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container such as a plastic storage container, suitcase on wheels, a camping backpack or a duffel bag.

For more information, contact the local chapter of the American Red Cross or visit their website at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

Adapted from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

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