

Sheltering In

Scenario examples:

Wildfire - Heavy snow - Flood - Tornado - Power outage - Water supply - Plague - Spills - Earthquake - Banking & economic collapse - Enforcement/blockades/invasion - Cyber attack - EMP (destroys all nearby non-shielded solid-state electronic devices ie cell phones, refrigerators, generators, TVs, radios, etc. & can affect some cars)

10 essentials for preparation:

Water Shelter Food Fire Light First Aid Hygiene Tools Self-defense Communication (Many items can be from your prepared bug-out bags) + Document copies

Water - A gallon a day per person. Personal water containers, 5 or 55-gallon water containers, rain barrel. Store gallon jugs of drinking water, but change out every 6-12 months due to plastic leaching. Water can be canned in Mason jars and last for years.

Filter: Life Straw, purification tablets, straining and boiling. Fill tubs & can use disposable tub liners (Amazon). Tub water is handy for washing, flushing toilets, and boiling to purify. If extensive time without electricity, water/sewer will not be pumped.

Shelter - Use a room according to needs; a smaller room with few windows in order to hold heat. Set up a tent in a room or on the bed to sleep in as that will hold body heat. Tarps and duct tape on hand in case of damage to the home. Determine a place in the home for safety during a tornado. Consider having some emergency Mylar blankets.

Food - Develop a survival food "storehouse" with longer storage capabilities ie food in canning jars, Mylar bags, canned food (have a hand-held can opener), and include plenty of protein foods for energy. Powdered forms of milk, eggs, peanut butter, TVP (textured vegetable protein), and rice, pastas, dried beans, etc. Freeze-dried fruit and meat jerky. Pre-packaged "survivor" foods, MREs (Meals Ready to Eat), are pricey, full of preservatives, and aren't very tasty. Create your own in Mylar bags with oxygen absorbers (deters mold) for extended storage. Keep a dated list so you can rotate foods as needed and store food in large plastic bins or buckets to keep out pests and dampness. Can also add moisture absorbers in the containers. Store heirloom seeds in case of long-term stay. Garbage bags are essential and don't forget pet needs.

Fire - For warmth, light, and cooking. Grill, fireplace, propane camp stove, outdoor fire pit, canned heat or tea lights with chafing dish, camping pocket/rocket stove, DIY solar oven, DIY toilet paper heater, and DIY nesting clay pot heaters. (YouTube). Have back up supplies like wood, gas, matches and lighters. Pots and pans to use over open fires or disposable foil pans. Unexpired fire extinguisher & know how to use it.

Light - Flashlights, headlamp flashlights (hands free is very helpful), solar string lights (stretch over a room), landscape solar lamps (handy for small areas like bathrooms), candles (battery & wax - beeswax candles are smokeless), gas camp lantern, emergency solar/rechargeable/battery lanterns that can charge phones. Have backup batteries. Use a small can of Crisco and push in a short taper candle for long lasting light source.

First Aid - Know basic first aid skills. Assess your supplies from bandages to vent chest seals. Keep a supply of your prescription medicines and basic over-the-counter meds: headache, pain, diarrhea, vomiting, allergy, cough, toothache, muscle relief, infection, flu, etc. Supplies for injury: burns, sutures, Ace bandages, splints, poisoning, etc. Learn about alternative items around the house than can be used (also for cleaning) ie peppermint oil, baking soda, super glue, cornstarch, honey, oats, mouthwash, etc. Masks to protect against fire ash or other needs and disposable gloves.

Hygiene - Another storehouse: toilet tissue, soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, razors, detergents, and other cleaning supplies. DIY washing machine out of 5-gallon bucket and plunger (YouTube). Clothes line and clothes pins. Paper towels & cloths.

Tools - Assess tools: hammers, nails, screws, screwdrivers, wrench, saw, shovel, mattock, ax, gas syphon, and pry bar. Safety glasses, planks, tarps, wire, rope, string, duct tape, painter's tape, glue, heavy duty garbage bags, blades or knives. Hunting gear and fishing supplies if near a lake. Scissors and sewing kit.

Self-defense - Secure home with good locks and possible barricades. Can cover windows with large black contractor bags and secure with painter's tape; dark fabric/curtains so people can't detect that you have lights and supplies. Guns, ammo, and weapons you know how to use. Have plenty of ammo as it can also be used for trade. Pepper spray and even the 20 feet wasp spray are useful for defense.

Communication - Ham radio, short-wave radio, and walkie talkies. Weather radio to hear current local news. Know trusted neighbors in walking distance. Siren/whistle or flagging ribbon to signal for aid.

Tips - Keep a stash of small bills for purchasing when power is out.

Bug out location(s) plan and inform family members.

Keep at least a quarter tank of gas in vehicles in case of having to bug out.

Spare gas tank; use gas stabilizer for longer fuel storage. Extra propane tank for grill.

Extra oil, non-ethanol gas and 220v extension cords for a generator.

Phone numbers and addresses written on paper.

Survival books and printed information you may need.

Good information resources: CollapseSurvivalSite.com and HomesteadSurvivalSite.com

Documents - Maintain a grab-and-go fireproof document bag with copies of important papers. Consider a flash drive of favorite photos. Can also have a flash drive of basic documents and photos for a get-home bag. A document bag makes it much easier for a relative to finalize your estate one day as well.

If evacuating, remember to grab your "**CHAMP**"...**C**ash, **H**ard drive (photo storage you can't recover), **A**mmo & pistol, **M**edications, and **P**hone.

Prep exercise: shut off power to your home for a time and practice using your supplies. This will help the entire family know what to do in a crisis and how to use available resources. Know the Word and pray often.