

To maximize readiness, bundle your gear into a Base Kit first, then add Event-Specific Add-Ons depending on the weather event.

The Base Kit (Required for All Events)

You must keep these items together in a portable, waterproof "Go-Bag" at all times:

- **Water:** One gallon per person per day (3-day supply minimum).
- **Food:** 3-day supply of non-perishable, high-calorie items.
- **Radio:** Battery-powered or hand-crank NOAA Weather Radio.
- **Light:** Flashlights and extra batteries (avoid candles due to fire risks).
- **First Aid:** Bandages, antiseptics, sterile gauze, and tweezers.
- **Power:** Fully charged USB power banks and charging cables.
- **Tools:** Multi-tool, manual can opener, and a whistle to signal for help.
- **Sanitation:** Wet wipes, garbage bags, and plastic ties.
- **Documents:** Waterproof pouch with IDs, insurance policies, and cash. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]

Event-Specific Supply Add-Ons

Winter Weather Base (Blizzards, Polar Vortex, Nor'easters, Ice Storms, Lake-Effect Snow)

- **Heat:** Space heaters (ventless propane rated for indoor use only) and extra firewood.
- **Bedding:** Mylar thermal space blankets and heavy sleeping bags rated for freezing.
- **Car Kit:** Portable tire traction mats, ice scraper, collapsible shovel, and jumper cables.
- **Plumbing:** Foam pipe insulation sleeves and a water main shut-off wrench.
- **Safety:** Bag of sand or cat litter for vehicle traction and sidewalk ice melt. [[1](#)]

Tornadoes, Derechos, & Severe Thunderstorms

- **Protection:** Hard hats, bicycle helmets, or construction helmets for head protection.
- **Footwear:** Heavy-duty, steel-toe or thick-soled boots to walk through debris.
- **Gear:** Leather work gloves to handle broken glass or splintered wood.
- **Signaling:** Air horn or loud whistle if trapped under structural rubble.
- **Power Protection:** High-joule surge protectors for expensive home electronics. [[1](#)]

Water Hazards (Atmospheric Rivers, Floods, Mudslides, King Tides)

- **Clothing:** Heavy-duty rubber chest waders and waterproof rain gear.
- **Safety:** Coast Guard-approved Life Jackets (PFDs) for every family member.
- **Tools:** Sump pump with battery backup and heavy-duty sandbags.
- **Illumination:** Waterproof, floating LED flashlights.
- **Hygiene:** Nitrile gloves and N95 masks to handle mold or contaminated water debris. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)]

Fire & Heat Hazards (Wildfires, Santa Ana Winds, Extreme Heat Waves)

- **Respiratory:** NIOSH-approved N95 or P100 respirators to filter toxic smoke.
- **Protection:** Fire-resistant clothing (100% cotton or wool), long sleeves, and leather gloves.
- **Hydration:** Electrolyte replacement tablets or powder packets.
- **Home Cooling:** Box fans and heavy-duty painter's tape to seal window cracks.
- **Air Quality:** HEPA room air purifiers to clean indoor air during heavy smoke. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)]

Southwest Monsoon & Desert Storms

- **Navigation:** Dashcam or GPS that functions without cellular service.
 - **Eye Protection:** Sealed dust goggles to protect eyes during sudden haboobs (dust storms).
 - **Vehicle Kit:** Tow straps and a heavy-duty car jack if stuck in soft sand.
- If you are interested, we can customize this further by looking at:
- Creating a **pet-specific emergency checklist**
 - Determining the best **portable generator options and wattage requirements**

