



PALM CANYON NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB DISASTER PREPAREDNESS INFO

Palm Springs is fortunate to have access to many excellent emergency services, but help may be delayed when a disaster strikes. Roads and airports may close, and you may need to rely on yourself and your neighbors until assistance arrives. The Palm Canyon Neighborhood Club (PCNC) wants everyone in our community to be as safe and prepared as possible during a disaster. There are many things that we as individuals, and as a community, can do to ensure our personal safety and lessen stress in an emergency situation. Here are a few tips and suggestions on what you can do to prepare:

1. Take a visual inventory of your home. Look for things that may become harmful in an emergency. Your water heater should be secured by straps to prevent it from falling over and exposing gas lines. Secure items that could fall from shelves that may fall and shatter, leaving broken glass in your pathways.
2. Take photos or a video of furnishings in your home, especially valuables, that may be lost to fire or earthquake. Many insurance companies require proof of claims before they are paid out.
3. Make copies of important documents such as passports, birth certificates, licenses, wills and insurance policies. Store items in a separate location, or with a relative or trusted friend, for easy retrieval in the aftermath of an emergency.
4. Know how to turn off gas service to your home. It is advised that the appropriate wrench be attached to the valve, with the end to be used painted white, to avoid confusion in a disaster situation.
5. Keep a fire extinguisher at hand and know how to use it. Make sure it hasn't expired.
6. Keep flashlights, lanterns, candles, waterproof matches and batteries at hand. Store everything in an easily accessible area. (Some people keep emergency supplies under the bed.)
7. Keep some cash on hand, preferably in small bills. It is suggested that you have \$100–\$200 per adult.
8. Keep a pair of slip-on shoes, your Go Bag (see below), a flashlight and a crow/pry bar under your bed to enable a quick exit from your home.

What's a Go Bag?

A Go Bag is a portable emergency kit that includes items you may need to survive if you have to quickly evacuate your home. Your Go Bag should be kept in a location, where you can grab it quickly if necessary. It's easy to create a Go Bag from scratch, or you can purchase a pre-made one and tailor it to your personal needs. Choose a carryall that is sturdy and large enough to hold your essentials for three days, yet small enough that you can grab it and carry it easily. (Some backpacks and duffle bags come on wheels if you have problems carrying extra weight). Here are some items to include:

- Nutrient-dense foods, such as protein bars, nuts, instant oatmeal, dried fruits and vegetables and jerky
- Water or water purification tablets (one gallon per person, per day is recommended)
- Travel-sized personal items (including soap and hand sanitizer)
- Extra eyeglasses if needed
- First aid kit
- Prescription medications and other medical necessities
- Change of clothes (include warm clothing and a waterproof layer)
- N95 masks
- Flashlight
- Hand crank AM/FM radio
- Phone chargers and back up batteries
- Copies of important papers (keep in a Ziplock bag)
- Emergency cash (including small bills and small change)
- Pet supplies if needed
- Emergency supplies: blanket, scissors, duct tape, work gloves, whistle, candles and matches

Sources: [Red Cross](#), the [National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University](#) and the [Palm Springs Fire Department, AARP](#)