

EMERGENCY PREPARATION LIST—KEY AREAS

Here's what to pack in an emergency kit and key additional steps to take ahead of a hurricane, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This short list just highlights key areas of preparation.

EMERGENCY KITS: Combine basic staples (food, water) with supplies reflecting your family's unique needs, such as medications or baby formula.

Fuel: Fill up all your vehicles and additional gas cans

Water: First and foremost, store at least three gallons of water per person -- enough to last each three days. If you think you'll be cut off longer, add an extra gallon per person per day.

Cash: Banks and ATMs could shut down. Power outages render debit and credit cards useless.

Documents: Keep copies of key documents in a waterproof, easy-to-carry container. These include identification such as passports and Social Security cards as well as insurance policies and bank account records.

Medications: Keep a one-week supply of prescription medications plus any over-the-counter items like pain relievers and antacids.

Food: Lay in a three-day supply of canned foods and dry mixes — nothing that needs refrigeration. Avoid thirst-inducing foods, and remember the dietary needs of those around you, including infants (ready-to-feed formula) and pets. Secure a hand-operated can opener.

Sanitation: Think moist towelettes, garbage bags and diapers. Consider paper goods such as plates and cups as well as plastic utensils.

Backup phone batteries: Extra batteries for your devices, also called portable power banks, could prove essential in a power outage. Here's [how to prep your smartphone](#) for disasters.

Additional items: Flashlights with spare batteries, blankets, a first aid kit and [NOAA weather radios](#) are all recommended.