



Tips, Suggestions and Other Information

LED Flashlights use considerably less battery power than other models and can last for days versus hours. However, conventional models can be a little brighter, especially in directed use (spotlight). LEDs work great for wider area applications (floodlight).

Handheld televisions provide visual news that radios obviously cannot, especially weather radar, live traffic cams, etc. TVs generally use more power than radios, so they should be used sparingly with plenty of extra batteries on hand.

Purchase batteries in bulk rather than several smaller packs. The price per unit in a 16-pack is nearly ½ that of a 4-pack.

Except for one flashlight, which should always be “armed and ready,” install batteries in your emergency items only when the time comes, and avoid using these items during normal conditions. Also, batteries should be kept in their original packages until needed.

Consider storage containers that have wheels and long handles for your supplies. They should have lids that fasten in place securely. Coolers make great containers until a disaster occurs, when the contents can be removed for use and the cooler then used for food and drink.

Turn on your Radio or TV

Stay tuned to local radio and television for official information and instructions. In an emergency, authorities will regularly update the media so that timely information can be broadcast to the public.



Emergency Kit Checklist Richland County Sheriff's Department Homeland Security

Be prepared -- Stay prepared. Assemble these items now!

GENERAL

- Flashlights (LED models are best)
- Lightsticks – 12 hour
- Radio (battery operated)
- Clock (wind-up or battery operated)
- Extra batteries
- Car charger for cell phone
- Hand-cranked LED lantern
- Waterless hand sanitizer and baby wipes/towelettes
- Working fire extinguisher
- Extra clothing / Rain gear / Sturdy boots
- Blankets or sleeping bags for each person (even in summer)
- Plastic trash/garbage bags
- Matches – waterproof, or sealed in plastic baggie
- Scissors
- Toilet paper and facial tissue
- Area map
- List of medications and a minimum 5-day supply of each
- Copy of insurance policy and other important paperwork
- Written Communications Plan** – ALL family members should have a copy and know how and with whom to check-in
- List of other important phone numbers (doctor, insurance company, friends/neighbors, pharmacy, bank, utilities, etc.)

BABY NEEDS

- Extra formula and/or baby food
- Disposable diapers
- Wipes
- Medicines and medicine dropper
- Ointments, lotions, etc.

EMERGENCY TOILET

- Garbage can with tight lid
- Plastic bags for liners
- Disinfectant or bleach
- Deodorizer
- Extra toilet paper

FOOD SUPPLIES (minimum of 5-day supply per person)

- Water – 1 gallon per person, per day should be sufficient for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, light cleaning/bathing
- Non-perishable foods
Note: Avoid foods with high salt content that increase thirst
- Gatorade or similar sports drink
- Peanut butter and other high protein foods
- Energy bars
- Juice boxes
- Canned and powdered milk
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Canned or bagged dry fruits
- Cereals that can be eaten dry
- Prepared foods (soups, tuna, spaghetti, beef, and pudding)
- Pet food

KITCHEN SUPPLIES

- Manual can opener
- Bottle opener
- Paper plates, paper towels, plastic cups, and plastic utensils
- Water purification tablets or bleach
- Ice chests/coolers, preferably with wheels and long handles
- Plastic bags, jugs, or other containers for water or ice
- Camp stove with extra fuel canisters and cooking utensils
- Extra propane tank, kept full, for gas grill
- Extra charcoal for grill
Note: NEVER cook indoors with these items or fuel sources
Only Sterno-type fuels should be used indoors for warming foods
- Disposable pans for cooking
- Dry matches

HARDWARE

- Tarps
- Plywood
- Duct tape
- Pocket knife or all-purpose tool
- Hammer and nails
- Rope
- Work gloves
- Other tools should be available, though not necessarily in kit (shovel, axe, hand saws, power screwdriver, chain saw, etc.)

FIRST AID and MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- First Aid handbook
- Medic Alert tags
- Adhesive bandages
- Gauze pads and roller bandages
- Antibacterial ointment
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Scissors and tweezers
- Latex gloves
- Masks for breathing protection
- Digital thermometer
- Cotton swabs
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent and insect bite lotion
- Rubbing alcohol and hydrogen peroxide
- Petroleum jelly
- Prescription medications
- Children's medications
- Iodine
- Disinfectant
- Liquid antibacterial soap and shampoo
- Moist towelettes / baby wipes
- Cough, cold, and allergy medications
- Feminine hygiene items
- Pain relief products, such as ibuprofen, acetaminophen, aspirin, etc.
- Antacid products, diarrhea and incontinence medication, etc.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- Ice-block jugs (plastic jugs of water from freezer)
- Air mattress, pump, and spare batteries
- Handheld television and extra batteries
- Fuel container, properly and safely stored

This is a list of recommendations only! Each individual or family may not require each item listed. In some cases, persons may need *more* items than those listed. Please use this checklist only as a guideline to help you and your family stay prepared.

For additional information, visit us online at www.rcsd.net.

Leon Lott, Sheriff