

EVACUATION GO BAG CHECKLIST

A packing checklist for a go bag you can carry if officials tell you to evacuate, based on Ready.gov's kit list and evacuation guidance.

■ WARNING

After a nuclear detonation, get inside and stay inside first. This bag is for when officials tell you to leave. Follow their routes, and do not return until local authorities say it is safe. [1][3]

BEFORE YOU NEED IT [1]

- Pack one bag per person that you can carry on foot or on public transportation.
- Make sure everyone in the household knows where the bags are.
- Keep a copy of your evacuation plan in each bag.

WHAT TO PACK [2][3]

WATER AND FOOD

- ☐ Sealed water pouches
- ☐ Water filter for refills along the way
- ☐ Non-perishable food that needs no cooking

LIGHT AND POWER

- ☐ Flashlight or headlamp
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ Phone, charger, and backup battery
- ☐ Battery or hand-crank radio

PROTECTION AND HEALTH

- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Dust masks (N95 respirators)

- ☐ Prescription medicines

- ☐ Eyeglasses

- ☐ Hygiene items

WARMTH AND CLOTHING

- ☐ Sleeping bag, emergency bivvy, or warm blanket
- ☐ Change of clothes and sturdy shoes
- ☐ Trash bag for contaminated clothing

TOOLS AND NAVIGATION

- ☐ Multi-tool with pliers
- ☐ Local maps or a paper road atlas
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ Whistle

PAPERS

- ☐ Copies of important documents in a waterproof container
- ☐ Cash

IF YOU HAVE A CAR [1]

- Keep a portable emergency kit in the car.
- Keep at least a half tank of gas at all times. Fill it if evacuation seems likely; stations may be closed or without power.
- With a car, you can also take the larger supplies from your fallout shelter kit.
- Know alternate routes out of your area.

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911. INSTRUCTIONS FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS COME FIRST.

Sources: [1] Ready.gov, Evacuation (ready.gov). [2] Ready.gov, Build a Kit (ready.gov). [3] Ready.gov, Nuclear Explosion (ready.gov).

Reviewed October 30, 2026.