

TIPS FOR SHELTER WORKERS

Local residents who evacuate to a shelter are advised to bring a disaster kit stocked with supplies that will make their stay more comfortable. These items should include bedding, snacks that meet their dietary requirements, books or small games, copies of important papers, toiletries, and so forth. They rely on shelter workers to provide them with other necessary resources.

Shelter workers also need to bring a supplies kit when they arrive at the facility. Depending on the situation, members of the shelter team may be commuting to the shelter from their homes, or they may have to stay in the shelter for the duration.

The best plan is to prepare for the unexpected. Each shelter worker should bring a personal disaster kit, containing all the supplies listed in the Red Cross brochure Be Red Cross Ready:

Water

At least one gallon per person per day

Note: water may be in short supply at the shelter, depending on circumstances

Food

Pack non-perishable, high-protein items, including energy bars, ready-to-eat soup, peanut butter, etc. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water.

Note: food may not be immediately available, or meet the worker's dietary needs

Flashlight

Hand-crank and alternative energy options are available. Include extra batteries, if applicable

Note: the shelter power supply might be unpredictable

First aid kit

Include a first aid reference guide

Medications

Don't forget prescription and non-prescription items

Radio

Include extra batteries or use a hand-crank radio

Tools

Gather a wrench to turn off gas if necessary, a manual can opener, screwdriver, hammer, pliers, knife, duct tape, plastic sheeting, garbage bags and tie

Note: most of these items are necessary for sheltering-in-place at home, but should be kept in the disaster supplies kit just in case

Clothing

Provide a change of clothes for everyone, including sturdy shoes and gloves

Personal items

Remember copies of important papers, including identification cards, insurance policies, birth certificates, passports, etc., eyeglasses, contact lenses and solution, and comfort items like toys and books, if pertinent

Sleeping bag or bedding and a pillow

Sanitary supplies

Toilet paper, towelettes, feminine supplies, personal hygiene items, bleach, etc.

Money

Have cash. (ATMs and credit cards won't work if the power is out)

Contact information

Carry a current list of family phone numbers and e-mail addresses, including someone out of the area who may be easier to reach if local phone lines are out of service or overloaded

Pet supplies

For each pet, include food, water, a collar, a leash/cage/carrying case, litter box or plastic bags, tags, any medications and vaccination information

Note: Shelter workers probably won't have their pets with them, but a pet owner's disaster supply kit should have these items, which can be left with a family member

Maps

A map of your local area in case of roadblocks

A map marked with an evacuation route marked