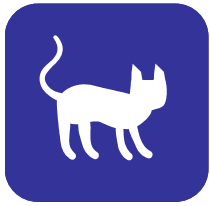


# Do 1 Thing...Special Items

www.do1thing.us

The mission of Do 1 Thing is to move individuals, families, organizations, businesses, and communities to prepare for all hazards and become disaster resilient.



Evacuating your home is the last thing you want to do. Will you remember important things? This month Do1Thing asks you to take along important items that may be forgotten when you are in a hurry to go.

**THE GOAL: Remember important items that may be overlooked when leaving your home.**

## Do One Thing

- Pets: Identification for your pet if you should become separated.
- Medications: Keep empty pill bottle in your Go Bag for emergency refills.
- Photos: Store negatives in a safe location outside your home.
- Health Supplies: Keep extra syringes and wet wipes in Go Bag.
- Know where to go: Keep a map in your Go Bag. Plan a place to go now.
- Add to your Go Bag: Specialty items for infants and toddlers (necessities and comfort items).

## Special Item #1: Pets

Leaving your pet may not be an option. Many shelters do not allow pets. Maybe you cannot get back to your house because of overturned chemical truck has isolated your home. Consider all options when making emergency plans:

- Keep extra water and food for your pets. One gallon for three days for each pet should be plenty. Also keep extra food in the Pet Go Bag.
- Help others recognize your pet. Keep an updated photo. Use a collar with ID tags.
- Keep extra pet medications in Go Bag.
- Consider Avid Microchip Information in case your pet is lost and help is needed in finding them
- Find a trusted neighbor and give them a key to your home. They can check on your pet if you are delayed in returning home. Make sure they are comfortable with your pet and know where to find food and other supplies.

## Special Item #2: Medications & Health Items

There may not be time for you to remember your medications. If you or a loved one has special medical needs, keep essential health items available to quick removal.

### Medications

Getting new medications will be easier if you have a current list. Medications names are hard to spell and the correct

Have a **"Go Bag"** ready for sheltering in place or evacuating. Some things to include are:

- See "Sheltering" Do1Thing info sheet for a list of basic needs
- Add your special needs items to the basic list:
- Empty pill bottle
- List with Doctor's phone number
- Map
- Pets:
  - Food & Water
  - Collar with ID tags
  - Pet medications
  - Carriers (1 per pet)
  - Medical records from Vet
  - Photos of your pet
  - Avid microchip information
- Necessities for infants and children

Your Go Bag can be part of your home emergency kit, just make sure that it is in a bag or easy to carry container and that it is in an easy to get to location.

dose is very important. Our local pharmacists suggest you keep an empty pill bottle in your Go Bag. Or, many prescriptions come with an extra sticky label. Put all labels on a piece of paper and place in Go Bag.

### Health Items

Diabetics need insulin syringes and alcohol wipes. And don't forget glucometer supplies. Other health conditions may require special supplies. When you are in a hurry, it is easy to overlook small and important items.

If possible, keep a small amount of supplies in your Go Bag. Keep these supplies up-to-date.

Another suggestion is to store the health supplies in a tray or other container. Keeping them together will help rescuers take everything you need if you need to leave in a hurry, such as an evacuation.

### **Special Item #3: Photos and Important Papers**

Firefighters tell us, "After a fire, families tell me what they miss the most is their pictures of family and friends". Emergencies happen fast. People have died trying to retrieve important things. Don't take that chance. Keep your photo negatives stored in a safe location outside your home. Consider a safety deposit box at a bank. Or, put them in a fireproof box. Keep the box at a friend or relative's home for safekeeping.

Another thing to remember is important papers. Keep a copy in your go bag on in the safety box. Important papers include:

- Wills, Advance medical directives, Power of Attorney.
- Marriage certificate, birth certificates, death certificates, or military discharge papers.
- Social Security cards
- Rent or utility bills or proof of payment. (Hurricane Katrina evacuees did not receive rental assistance unless they could prove they lived in an apartment before evacuation).
- Car and vehicle titles from Secretary of State

### **Special Item #4: Infants and Children**

You may not be able to get baby formula, baby food, diapers or wipes immediately after a disaster. Make sure you include items that babies and toddlers in your go kit. Having a replacement for a favorite comfort item (blanket, toy) may also make evacuation less stressful for small children.

**NEVER risk your own safety or the safety of first responders for pets or personal supplies. Always follow emergency instructions.**

### **Special Item #5: Evacuation destination**

Know where to go before you leave. Make plans with your family. Many families are busy and work or go to school in different places. Meeting back at your home may not be an option. Choose a location now and make sure everyone knows how to get there. Pack a map in your Go Bag. Many people choose a relative in a nearby city. Give the kids a map and list of phone numbers to call. If you can't reach to rendezvous point when expected, call ahead and tell everyone where you are and when you expect to arrive.

### **For more information**

Humane Society: <http://www.hsus.org>

Red Cross Evacuation Guide: [http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0\\_6\\_,00.html](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_6_,00.html)

Do 1 Thing: <http://www.do1thing.us>