

CRISIS PLANNING

Planning for a crisis, emergency, or evacuation contingency should begin long before the crisis presents itself. This planning must take into account a variety of factors that are not commonly considered. If you wait until you become aware of an impending crisis to plan what you are going to do, you are already too late. Planning must be done as early as possible. These plans must be clear, understandable, specific, and flexible. They also must be made known to your home church, mission board, or someone in a safe area that will have communications with necessary personnel and organizations that can render assistance during the crisis.

Plans will vary from country to country and political situation to political situation. Plans may need updating simply as the result of a national election. Of course, civil strife and wars will dictate change and/or implementation of contingency plans. Keep in mind that, for purposes of this article, emergencies fall into one of three major categories: natural; man-made; medical. Each has a different impact on the plan to follow and the nature of any Go-Bag, if needed.

This article concerns the assembly of a Go-Bag, or also known as a Run Bag or Grab-and-Go Bag. This is a bag which you put together today and hope that you never need to use it. This bag is for that situation where you have received notice that you have 20 minutes, 2 hours, or 2 days – whatever the case – to evacuate. The focus of this article is on evacuation, not survival, distinguishing the Go-Bag from a survival kit. Many of the components are the same or similar, but the purpose is different and determines the size and contents of the Go-Bag. The first aid list is rather comprehensive for a simple evacuation by commercial airlines; but, it is designed as a starting point for needs during an extended period of sheltering in place, evacuation to a safe house location, or exfiltration to a safe location.

Not every bag will be the same – contents will vary from family to family, country to country, etc. The list we developed shows almost everything to be considered; probably, no bag will contain all these items – they are listed as suggestions for consideration dependent upon the circumstances. Do not put all the items on the list in your bag without considering your potential situation(s) and their purpose. Of course, items not listed that you might determine would be needed should be added. Make a checklist of items for each bag as it is developed. You need to keep copies of the checklist in the bag and readily available in the house. Annotate those items on the checklist that must be rounded up upon alert notification. Include their whereabouts in the house. Assign individual responsibilities for these items to family members.

All prescription medications should be located in one place in the house so that they can be collected when the decision to evacuate is made. Refill prescriptions as early as possible on a continuing basis without jeopardizing the prescription; this will ensure that sufficient doses are available for evacuation on short notice.

Not everything that goes into the bag need be obtained at once, if not already in your possession. As time and money permits, build your bag; and build it as expeditiously as possible. Prioritize your items for acquisition – some things are absolutely mandatory to have, while others make the evacuation

easier and more durable. This bag is not designed primarily as a survival kit; rather, the intention is to facilitate evacuation from the field location to a safe house or location outside of the danger area.

Go-Bags may be modularized or compartmentalized. That is, the bag would contain different and/or more items for different contingencies. These differences will become apparent as the bag is developed. Remember, each family member must be able to carry their individual Go-Bag for extended time and distances. Also, if possible, the size of the core bag should meet carry-on criteria for airlines. A basic planning factor for the amounts in the bag is to plan for a minimum of 72 hours. The bag may also be used to shelter in place during emergencies without power, water, or the need to remain inside and out of sight. The design and appearance of the bag is crucial. To the maximum extent possible, you want to appear as a local, not someone in the military or a tourist; you and the bag should blend in so as to remain inconspicuous.

Blank lines have been provided in the checklists for addition of items deemed necessary and appropriate in individual cases.

SUGGESTED PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

(To be tailored for the nature of the emergency)

GO-BAG (RUN-BAG)	
ATM card	
Credit cards	
Checkbook	
Latest bank statements	
Cash or travelers checks; include coins	
Address Book	
Laptop & backup discs	
Bible	
Medical & dental records; medical cards	
Immunization records	
Glasses; contacts	
Prescriptions	
Over the counter meds	
Moist towelettes	
Food	
Water	
Snacks	
Energy Bars	
Freezer bags	
Changes of clothing	Wear good walking shoes
Rain Gear	
Emergency blanket(s)	
Signaling devices	Mirror; whistle; GPS locator;
Cell phones/Satellite phone with chargers	
Prepaid phone card	
Pencils/pens & notebooks	
Maps; rally points; evacuation routes; etc.	
Toilet articles	
Passports & Visas	
Birth Certificates	
Marriage certificates	
Driver's licenses	
Insurance policies	
Powers of Attorney	
Photo ID	
Multi-purpose tool; (include a can opener)	(Unless flying commercial airlines)
Flashlight with extra batteries	

PERSONAL INFORMATION/EMERGENCY CONTACT

Full Name	
<i>Complete all sections for entire family</i>	
Permanent Home Address (Home country):	
Field Address:	
Mailing Address (Home country):	
Email address:	
Web site:	
Facebook/Twitter address:	
Date of birth:	
Passport number:	
<i>Attach copy to form for filing at home base in US.</i>	
Passport expiration:	
Visa type/expiration:	
<i>Attach copy.</i>	
Visa title:	
Length of resident permit:	
Blood type:	
Allergies:	
Special medications & needs:	

Doctor name:	
Doctor phone number:	
Hospital (in country):	
Phone number:	
Desired hospital in US for evacuation:	
Phone number:	
Next of kin:	
Name:	
Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Email address:	
Home church:	
Home church pastor name:	
Address:	
Church phone number	
Pastor home phone number	
Pastor email address	
Pastor cell phone number	
<i>This number is critical for emergency contact.</i>	
Location of wills/trusts/guardianship/estate planning documents:	
“Proof of Life” questions that only you would know the answer to. (E.g., What was the make & model of your first car?)	
Question:	
Answer:	
Question:	
Answer:	
Distress code indicating hostage or other similar circumstances.	
Latitude/longitude of home; safe house; rally points	
Planned exfiltration routes & destinations	

