

Preparedness for a Cub Scout

For Natural Disasters

Well it's never too late to start building a disaster or preparedness pack. This pack is going to be used in the case you have to leave your home because of a natural disaster.

So what is a Bug-Out Bag?

A bug-out bag is a portable kit that contains the items one person would require to survive for seventy-two hours/ 3 days when evacuating your home or town during a disaster.

What is a natural disaster?

A natural disaster is a major event resulting from natural processes (example: weather) of the Earth; examples include floods, severe weather, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, along with other types of climate disturbances. A natural disaster can cause people being hurt to property damage to even loss of life.

When a natural disaster is forecasted, you may be asked to leave your home and move to somewhere safer. This is where you will save time trying to get out of the area by having a bug-out bag ready.

You can store your bug-out bag in the trunk of mom and dad's car, in a closet or even by the front door. It's up to you to pick the best spot to put your bag so you can get to it easily and fast. Having a bug-out bag ready to go will help to not only you, but your parents to get out of the area faster.

Everything you need to build your Bug-Out Bag can be found at home. And for those things you don't have at home, you can pick them up at the dollar store or even Wal-Mart. So just take a look at what you have at home and then make a checklist of what you need to pick up.

Now that we know a little bit about a bug-out bag and what a bug-out bag is used for, let's look at what kind of packs we can use and the items we need to have in our pack.

- The first thing you are going to need is a good backpack or medium transport pack.



The packs shown above can be used as Bug-Out bags. They have the space needed to carry what we need when or if disaster hits. Even a school backpack can be used for a disaster pack.

Now you don't want to use a backpack with wheels, because when most people try to run with the backpack with wheels, they usually trip and if you have to carry the backpack for a little while, they are not the best to carry on your back. You want a good solid canvas backpack. It doesn't have to be fancy, just something that can hold everything you need to evacuate to safety.

What goes in my disaster pack/Bug-Out Bag?

We need to start with clothing. We have to place 3 days' worth of clothing in our pack.

Why 3 days' worth of clothing?

On average, during a disaster rescue, three days is how long it will take for rescue workers to get to you and your family. Having three days' worth of clothing will let you change clothes when the weather is cold and raining and the dry clothes will help keep you warm and dry.

Next you will need:

- A Small first Aid Kit



The first aid kit will help you and your family treat any minor injuries that may happen and help fight off infection during your time within a disaster situation. Most little first aid kits have a little injury manual that shows you how to deal with cuts and other minor injuries like bug bites. So making sure you have a first aid kit in your bug-out bag will help a lot.

- Flashlight



The flashlight will help you see and signal for help at night. Plus a flashlight makes most young children feel safer and not panic as bad.

- A Radio



Having a little radio will let know where help is and how close they are to you. The radio will also let you hear the weather reports and provide some entertainment while you wait for rescue workers.

- Extra Batteries



You will need extra batteries for your flashlight and radio. So having an extra set of batteries will keep the light burning and the radio on while you are waiting for help to come.

A Space Blanket



A space blanket will help you stay warm and will also keep you dry if it's raining. Plus it can also help you gather water while it's raining. So having a space blanket in your pack will really help you and your family.

Canteen or Water Bottle



You will need a way to hold and carry water. A canteen or water bottle filled with water will help you stay hydrated. Dehydration can make you sick.

Next you will need a mess kit.



The three pictures you see above are the perfect mess kit in which you should have within your Disaster Pack. The can opener will of course open cans, the little compact pot, pan and plate will allow you heat or cook your food and the little camping cutlery so you can eat your food. You can get a simple mess kit from Wal-Mart over in the camping section. You can also get the cutlery set in the same place. The can opener can be bought at your local dollar store.

The last thing we will need for our Bug-Out Bags is food. Some cans of food from your cupboard, will keep you from going hungry. The food will help you keep up your strength.



Now that we have created your disaster survival kit or B.O.B., here is a test for you and your family can do....These are the 10 most important things you need to have in your Bug-Out Bag.

Set a timer for 1:00 minute.

Scenario:

You have been alerted that a flood warning has been issued in your area and the reporter on the news tells everyone to evacuate the town.

Ready?

Set?

GO!

Time yourselves on how long it takes you and your family to get out of the house and to the car. Remember, all you need to grab is your Bug-Out Bag, so you should not have to grab anything else but that.