

# Caregiver Assistance News

“CARING FOR YOU... CARING FOR OTHERS”

## Emergencies – Packing a *GO Bag* and a *STAY Bag*

Climate scientists now warn that weather emergencies may be the new normal, as global warming leads to heavier rains, stronger hurricanes, more tornadoes and bigger wildfires. *Planning* ahead and *preparing* for the worst-case scenario are the best ways to stay safe before a disaster hits. During and after an emergency, it is important to **stay calm**. Even after an event, there may still be many dangers. Stay tuned to your local emergency station and follow the advice of trained professionals. While there are many things to plan for, your response to all of them is one of two things: **stay at home or evacuate**. Whenever possible, staying at home in your own environment and with your own emergency supplies is the best choice. Unless told to evacuate, avoid roads to allow emergency vehicles access. What you do next can save your life and the lives of others.

Set up a local **personal support network**, made up of individuals who will check on the person in your care in an emergency and give assistance if needed. Tell them where you keep your emergency supplies. Also, choose an out-of-town family contact, and make sure that everyone in your family knows who this person is and their phone number.

### **GO Bag Emergency Supplies**

The *GO bag* is a portable kit that includes items you need to survive and to take with you if you *suddenly* have to leave your home. Store your *GO bag* in a place that is easy to grab, such as next to a door or in the trunk of your car. Prepare for year-round use: spring,

summer, fall and winter and be sure it is sturdy and easy to carry. Update your emergency *GO bag* every six months. Replace items that will expire in the upcoming months such as food and medical supplies. Your *GO bag* should contain—

- ✓ **Bottled water and food**—Easy-to open cans or pop-top containers (at least a one-day supply).
- ✓ **Personal sanitation**—Moist wipes, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, and incontinence supplies. Extra clothing.
- ✓ **Medications**—Prescription medication for a week and paper copies of your prescriptions.
- ✓ **Small first-aid kit**—Band aids, gloves, ointment, pain reliever [ibuprofen].
- ✓ **Personal essentials**—Extra pair of eyeglasses and/or hearing aid.
- ✓ **Special needs family**—Essentials for family members with special needs.
- ✓ **Pets**—Water, food, leash, waste bags.
- ✓ **Flashlight, battery operated/ manual radio**—Pocketknife, whistle.
- ✓ **Copies of important documents**—Identification, passport, medical insurance and Medicare cards, home and auto insurance information, bank and credit card account numbers: store all these in a waterproof bag.
- ✓ **List of doctors** and emergency contacts.
- ✓ **Recent family photos for identification**— Including your pets.



GO Bag



## ***STAY-at-Home* Emergency Supplies Kit**

If you've already created a *GO bag*, you've got a head start on your STAY bag (or waterproof bin), because many *GO bag* items would be needed in a stay-at-home emergency. Think about the *essential* things you use on a *daily* basis and then add other important items. **Being prepared means having your own food, water, cash, and other supplies to last for at least three days**, and possibly much longer if you are in a remote or hard-to-reach area. The *STAY bin* does not need to be completed all at once.

- ➔ **Water and Food**—One gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation. If you live in a warm weather climate more water may be necessary. Keep at least a three-day supply of water per person.
- ➔ **Personal hygiene**—Moist wipes, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation and incontinence supplies. toothbrush and toothpaste, extra clothing.
- ➔ **Medications**—List of prescription medications, dosage, and allergies. If your prescription plan allows it, order an extra supply of your medications or ask your doctor for some free samples to have in case of an emergency—include at least a one-week supply of medications. Plan for medications that require refrigeration.
- ➔ **First-aid kit**—Bandages, hand sanitizer, gloves, ointment, pain reliever [ibuprofen], tweezers.
- ➔ **Personal essentials**—Extra eyeglasses and hearing-aid batteries, wheelchair batteries or other special equipment; label wheelchairs, canes and walkers.
- ➔ **Special needs family**—Essentials for family members with special needs.
- ➔ **Pets**—Water, food, leashes, portable bowls, crate, food and copies of veterinary records, in case you have to take your pets to a kennel while you stay in a shelter or hotel.
- ➔ **Medical devices**—List of the style and serial numbers of medical devices, such as pacemakers.
- ➔ **Flashlight, head lamp, battery-operated radio**—Fresh batteries (sizes AA, AAA, C, D), duct tape and a multipurpose tool or pocketknife, extra blankets, and a whistle.
- ➔ **Copies of important documents**—Identification, passport, medical insurance and Medicare cards, home and auto insurance information, bank and credit card account numbers: store all these in a waterproof bag.
- ➔ **List of doctors and emergency contacts.**
- ➔ **Cellphone and charger**—In case there is still electricity. A solar powered charger for power outages. When Low Power Mode is on, your iPhone will last longer before you need to charge it, but some features might take longer to update or complete.

Source: [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov); [Milwaukee.gov/health](https://www.milwaukee.gov/health); [www.Redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org); [How to Pack an Emergency Go Bag - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com)

## Taking Care of Yourself— How to Manage Frustration

It's a fact of life: the people closest to us are the same ones who best know how to "push our buttons." Feeling frustrated or resentful toward the people you live with, work with, or care for is a stressful and unhealthy situation, both for you and for others. Instead of letting negative feelings "simmer" or, worse, giving in to angry or unkind words and actions, take a time out to be grateful for the very people who can drive you nuts. The people in our lives are there because we value and appreciate them. Every time you're tempted to wish them out of your life, imagine losing all the good they bring into your life as well as the "bad." Let a feeling of gratitude fill you and frustration evaporates.

Source: *Happiness in this World*; [www.happinessinthisworld.com](http://www.happinessinthisworld.com)



## Live Life Laughing!

We have decided not to have children. We are going to tell them tonight.



### Inspiration

*Inaction breeds doubt and fear.  
Action breeds confidence  
and courage.*

—Dale Carnegie

### Memory Care - Special Needs

It is important for caregivers to have a disaster plan that includes the special needs of people with Alzheimer's, whose impairments in memory and reasoning severely limit their ability to act appropriately in crises.

## Caregiving in The Comfort of Home®

### Our Purpose

To provide caregivers with critical information enabling them to do their job with confidence, pride, and competence.

### Ordering Info

From the publishers of

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## **SAFETY TIPS—** What If You Are Delayed or Injured?

If you are responsible for the regular care of another person, what happens if you can't be there? An accident or medical emergency can happen to anyone, at any time. It is important that emergency personnel (police, fire department and/or emergency room professionals) know that you are a caregiver and that someone is counting on you for their health and safety.

**To ensure the well-being of the person you care for, always carry an emergency ID card in your wallet that identifies you as a caregiver.**

On the card, list the name and location of the care recipient; your relationship to the person; an alternative caregiver or family member and their phone number; additional information on the person's medical condition and needs; and a message indicating whether the person in your care is OK to be left alone. Place an emergency ID card on your refrigerator with the same information. Paramedics are trained to look at the refrigerator for information about you.

# Caregiver Assistance News

“ C A R I N G F O R Y O U ... C A R I N G F O R O T H E R S ”

## Q U I C K Q U I Z

Emergencies often are unpredictable, but we can still plan for them. Creating a *Go bag* and a *STAY Bag* does not make you someone who lives in fear, but a person who is prepared. Answer True or False to the questions below.

1. During and after an emergency, it is important to stay calm.  
T F
2. Whenever possible, staying at home in your own environment and with your own emergency supplies is the best choice.  
T F
3. Update your emergency *GO bag* every few years.  
T F
4. The *GO bag* is a portable kit that includes items you need to survive and to take with you if you *suddenly* have to leave your home.  
T F
5. In preparing your *STAY bag*, think about the *essential* things you use on a *daily* basis and then add other important items.  
T F
6. It is important to have needed prescription medication for a week and paper copies of your prescriptions.  
T F
7. You will not need a flashlight, battery operated/ manual radio or a whistle.  
T F
8. It is important that emergency personnel know that you are a caregiver and that someone is counting on you for their health and safety.  
T F
9. Caregivers should have a disaster plan that includes the special needs of people with Alzheimer's, whose impairments severely limit their ability to act appropriately in crises.  
T F
10. *Planning* ahead and *preparing* for the worst-case scenario are the best ways to stay safe before a disaster hits.  
T F

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_