



What should you include in an emergency preparedness kit? Here are some suggestions.

# Are you ready to flee?

Before disaster prompts evacuation, create Go Kits

## What do you wear to an evacuation?

That's just one of the dilemmas thousands of Californians faced when wildfires came racing towards their communities. Besides clothing, residents also had to remember what to take with them: Medications, important papers, food for their pets, cellphone (and a charger) plus other necessities. It's a lot to remember when flames are rapidly closing in.

Wildfire is just one catastrophic threat that can strike at any time. Earthquakes, floods and other disasters require forethought. The more prepared a family can be in advance, the better off they'll be in a real emergency when there's no time to think.

The first step: Make a "Go Kit." Every member of the family should have one including pets. Cal Fire recommends keeping an extra Go Kit handy for guests

who might get caught up in an emergency situation.

What should be in a Go Kit: Flashlight or headlamp with spare batteries; extra car keys, credit card and cash; prescription medications; spare eyeglasses or contacts; copies of important documents (birth certificates, insurance policies, etc.); spare chargers for cellphones or laptops; and a change of clothing. Pack all of this in a backpack, one for each family member. In addition, have emergency water and food packed up to go, too.

A Go Kit for pets should include food, water, leashes, any medications and pet supplies.

As for what to wear, think natural materials: Heavy denim, cotton and wool. Synthetics tend to be flammable. No matter how hot the weather, dress for wildfire survival; wear a long-sleeved shirt (preferably with a collar that covers the neck) and long pants with a sturdy belt. Protective clothing should include a bandanna or handkerchief to cover your face and protective goggles for your eyes. A floppy cotton hat, thick leather gloves and sturdy leather shoes or boots also are recommended.

Stash your survival clothes next to your Go Kit, so you can change quickly before evacuation.

When evacuating, take the car; it's your safest mode of transportation.

For a checklist and other evacuation tips, go to [www.ReadyforWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyforWildfire.org).

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