



# Preparing for Evacuation

The smell of smoke, the lack of rain, and the outbreak of multiple wildfires in our region this summer makes the possibility of an evacuation more real. Part of an evacuation plan is having a Go-Bag or Tote for each member of your family, including pets. A Go-Bag or Tote should contain a three-day supply of items you would need in the event you had to evacuate your home. These bags are prepared in advance, before an emergency, and are kept in an easily accessible place.

When creating your Go-Bag or Tote here are a few suggestions of essentials items to include:

- Cash, credit, and debit cards
- Insurance Documents
- Inventory of home contents (consider making a video inventory now, prior to an emergency)
- Photographs of the exterior of the house and landscape
- Computer and charger
- Cell phone and charger
- Address book
- Medications
- Prescription glasses, sunglasses, contact lens and solutions
- Driver's license
- Passport
- Water and non-perishable food
- Personal toiletries
- Enough clothing for three to five days
- Flashlight and batteries
- First-Aid kit
- Pet necessities

Additional items may include

- Hand sanitizer/wipes
- Books and magazines
- Trash bags
- Rain wear
- Blankets
- Laundry detergent
- Rubber gloves

What other items would you add to your Go-Bag? Potentially, small family heirlooms or photos?

Remember, your biggest defense in evacuating safely is to have a plan. Be ready to go, leave early, stay calm, and follow the directions of emergency personnel.

Check out the new Minnesota Arrowhead Fire Adapted Communities website at <https://minnesotafac.org>. This site offers wildland fire resilience resources to landowners, communities, and land managers. It also includes an evacuation check-list and things to do on your property or home before evacuation.

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