

"LAST MINUTE" PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

(not literally last minute - but in case you know a disaster is coming in a day or two)

72 hour kits
Replace clothes family members have outgrown
Check and replace diapers
Check food expiration dates and replace
Check to see if you are missing supplies
Do you have cash in small bills
Lighting/Power
Locate flashlights
Check batteries in all flashlights
Charge any solar powered battery packs
Charge all your electronic devices and keep them charged just in case you lose power
Get solar outdoor lights, you can use olive oil in jars with wicks as well
Pick up a solar phone charger then you will still have power for your cell phone
If you have to use a gas powered generator, make sure to have a little extra fuel on hand; just be very careful where you put it, and be mindful of your local laws on how much you can have on hand at one time
Water
Fill all your water containers
Consider filling your waterbob or plug your bath tub and fill it out
Consider filling big rubbermaid totes with water but MAKE sure they are covered if you have young children around
Have a rain barrel to collect water you can use to flush toilets
Family Communication/Planning
Keep a list of emergency numbers handy, along with family members' phone numbers. Write them down if you only have them stored in your phone
Have an emergency escape plan from your home and make sure all family members know it and know where to meet.
Make sure you have and/or locate your radio to stay connected
Prepare an evacuation list of things you would need to grab in case you need to evacuate.
Have an emergency binder with all important paperwork ready to go
Take pictures of every room and closet in your house – it makes a huge difference if you have to deal with insurance companies
Cooking
If you have a gas grill, make sure you have a full tank of propane
Check and replace other types of fuels
If you need internet for instructions on how to use any of your powerless cooking tools go online and print the instructions now
Make sure you have and/or locate a nonelectric can opener
Food
Have lots of nonperishables on hand
Turn fridge and freezer to a colder setting
If you have extra space in your freezer, take containers or ziploc bags full of water and fill in the extra space
Make a few meals and snacks that will last without power
Have enough food and litter for your pets
Sanitation/Health
Improvise an emergency toilet with a bucket lined with a bin bag and some sawdust or cat litter to cover the contents after each use
Have your prescriptions filled
Do your laundry now, so you have clothes that are dry and clean. Locate items necessary to do laundry by hand
Find your glasses so you don't have to deal with contacts in an emergency
Other
Have books and other non electric entertainment like board games ready for everyone
Fill your gas tank
Don't forget to pay attention to fire prevention measures. Have your extinguisher handy