

How Older Americans Should Prepare for Fire, Hurricanes, Other Emergencies

By AARP Staff

Important items that might not make typical lists



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Wildfires rage in California on September 9th.

Water. Nonperishable food. A personal first-aid kit. A flashlight and battery-powered radio. You've probably heard about these and other basics for an emergency, but some other items are particularly important if you're 50 or older.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a list of information targeted specifically for older Americans facing an emergency. Among the items the agency recommends you have on hand:

- A three-day minimum supply of medications, along with a cooler and ice packs if your medications require refrigeration. Also, medical supplies if needed, such as syringes.
- Contact lens solution, glasses and/or hearing aids and extra batteries for people who need them.
- An identification band with your full name, a list of any allergies and a family-member contact number.
- Information about your medical devices, including oxygen, walkers and wheelchairs. The information should include model numbers and the vendor of the products.

- Documents in a waterproof bag. They should include a personal care plan; contact information for family members; a medication list including the dosage, exact name, pharmacy information and the prescribing doctor for each medication; a list of food or medical allergies; copies of photo IDs and medical insurance cards; and a durable power of attorney and/or medical power of attorney documents.
- Cash to be used if automatic teller and credit card machines are not working.

The CDC also is recommending people include additional supplies to address the spread of the coronavirus, flu and other viruses. They include cloth face coverings for everyone 2 and older, soap, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes.

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