Goal: Assemble materials you’ll need to quickly evacuate.

If you must evacuate your home quickly, a Go-Bag packed with minimal essential supplies can offer comfort. Also known as a Bug-Out Bag, a Go-Bag contains things that are personalized to your needs. If possible, each member of the household should have their own Go-Bag. Think carefully about what you put into the bag, because you may have to carry it; the more stuff added, the heavier it will get.

You likely won’t be able to pack everything you need to survive away from home for two weeks; the Go-Bag just contains the essentials. This activity assumes you’re going to a community shelter or to the home of a family member or friend where it’s safe and where food, water and toilet facilities are available.

Go-Bag items:

- Seasonal clothing for two or three days
- Plan to wear only the footwear you have on when you evacuate to conserve Go-Bag space.
- NOTE: Clothing should be changed in your go bag on a seasonal basis. If it’s cold-weather season, you’ll already be wearing long pants, a heavy shirt or sweater, and a coat, hat and gloves that will go with you.
- Eyeglasses, contact lenses (with solution and storage), hearing aids and other essential medical assistive devices.
- Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and personal hygiene wipes.
- Medications (prescription and over-the-counter), including a listing with quantities, frequency of dispensing and a note of all allergies.
- Important documents, including medical and contact information for each member of the household; home or apartment, vehicle and life insurance policies; local and out-of-area contacts; passports; driver’s licenses; banking information; and pet information like shelters and veterinarian.
- Cell phone and charger with cord, small electronics (laptop or tablet) and chargers.
- Favorite power bars and other small, portable, non-refrigerated snacks.
- ATM card and cash.
- Area map and map for designated evacuation destinations (community shelters, homes of family and friends).
- Miscellaneous items including a flashlight, reading material, simple first-aid supplies (bandages, anti-bacterial spray, ointment), travel-size personal toiletries and a small sewing kit (such as the kind offered in hotels).

Goal: Learn how to shut off major utilities in and around your home.

Practice how to shut off breakers inside your electric circuit box and how to shut off the natural gas supply to your place before a disaster. Knowing how to turn off public water valves is also important.

**ELECTRIC CIRCUIT BOX SHUT-OFF**

(CAUTION: Do not turn off the gas unless there is a real need. A professional must turn the gas back on).

**Step 1.**

If you smell gas or hear it leaking, open a window, if possible, and leave the area immediately on foot before trying to turn off the gas. The shut-off is typically the first valve on the pipe that runs into the gas meter from the buried line. Some newer meters have the shut-off located on the pipe that goes from the gas meter to the home. In many homes, the gas meter is located near the front of the house.

**Step 2.**

To shut off the gas, use a wrench to turn the valve a quarter turn in either direction, so it’s perpendicular to the pipe. If the valve is parallel to the pipe, it means the gas line is open. It’s best to use a crescent wrench or other adjustable wrench to turn off the utility. Watch this video for more how-to guidance on how to turn off natural gas to the home.

**WATER SHUT-OFF**

You can shut off all water to your property by finding the water meter box (usually at the street or sidewalk). Inside the water meter box, you’ll see a valve like the one on your gas meter. Turn it in the same direction as you would your gas valve. Based on your geographic location, the water main shut-off valve may be located inside your home.

Goal: Identify hazards in and around your home before a disaster and address what you can do now to make it safer.

Consider the different hazards that could impact your area, such as earthquakes, fires and floods, and think about how these risks can affect where you live.

While you’re hazard hunting, you’re likely to spot supplies to include among your preparedness materials (see Activity 24: Prepare a Go-Bag) and stuff you’ll want to catalog and insure (see Activity 7). You may need to make a trip to the hardware or other supply store after the Hazard Hunt activity to gather items, such as tie-downs, water-resistant containers and other supplies to keep you safe.

Determine which projects you can tackle right away, which you can manage with a bit more time and resources, and those that may require more time and possibly help from a contractor. Unless you have the proper skills, get professional help with electrical and plumbing projects to ensure personal and property safety and confirm any adjustments meet local codes and ordinances. These may be things you’ll need to budget for, so planning your approach and starting now is both valuable and empowering.
ACTIVITY 23: UTILITY SHUT-OFF

Goal: Learn how to shut off major utilities in and around your home.

Practice how to shut off breakers inside your electric circuit box and how to shut off the natural gas supply to your place before a disaster. Knowing how to turn off public water valves is also important.

ELECTRIC CIRCUIT BOX SHUT-OFF

1. **Step 1.** Shut off individual breaker.
2. **Step 2.** Shut off main breaker.

GAS SHUT-OFF (CAUTION: Do not turn off the gas unless there is a real need. A professional must turn the gas back on).

1. **Step 1.** If you smell gas or hear it leaking, open a window, if possible, and leave the area immediately on foot before trying to turn off the gas. The shut-off is typically the first valve on the pipe that runs into the gas meter from the buried line. Some newer meters have the shut-off located on the pipe that goes from the gas meter to the home. In many homes, the gas meter is located near the front of the house.
2. **Step 2.** To shut off the gas, use a wrench to turn the valve a quarter turn in either direction, so it’s perpendicular to the pipe. If the valve is parallel to the pipe, it means the gas line is open. It’s best to use a crescent wrench or other adjustable wrench to turn off the utility. Watch this video at [https://www.nwnatural.com/safety/emergency-preparedness](https://www.nwnatural.com/safety/emergency-preparedness) for more how-to guidance on how to turn off natural gas to the home.

WATER SHUT-OFF

You can shut off all water to your property by finding the water meter box (usually at the street or sidewalk). Inside the water meter box, you’ll see a valve like the one on your gas meter. Turn it in the same direction as you would your gas valve. Based on your geographic location, the water main shut-off valve may be located inside your home.
**Goal:** Assemble materials you’ll need to quickly evacuate.

If you must evacuate your home quickly, a Go-Bag packed with minimal essential supplies can offer comfort. A Go-Bag contains things that are personalized to your needs. If possible, each member of the household should have their own Go-Bag. Think carefully about what you put into the bag, because you may have to carry it; the more stuff added, the heavier it will get.

You likely won’t be able to pack everything you need to survive away from home for two weeks; the Go-Bag just contains the essentials. This activity assumes you’re going to a community shelter or to the home of a family member or friend where it’s safe and where food, water and toilet facilities are available.

**Go-Bag items:**

- Seasonal clothing for two or three days.
  - Plan to wear only the footwear you have on when you evacuate to conserve Go-Bag space.
  - NOTE: Clothing should be changed in your go bag on a seasonal basis. If it’s cold-weather season, you’ll already be wearing long pants, a heavy shirt or sweater, and a coat, hat and gloves that will go with you.

- Eyeglasses, contact lenses (with solution and storage), hearing aids and other essential medical assistive devices.

- Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and personal hygiene wipes.

- Medications (prescription and over-the-counter), including a listing with quantities, frequency of dispensing and a note of all allergies.

- Important documents, including medical and contact information for each member of the household; home or apartment, vehicle and life insurance policies; local and out-of-area contacts; passports; driver’s licenses; banking information; and pet information like shelters and veterinarian.

- Cell phone and charger with cord, small electronics (laptop or tablet) and chargers.

- Favorite power bars and other small, portable, non-refrigerated snacks.

- ATM card and cash.

- Area map and map for designated evacuation destinations (community shelters, homes of family and friends).

- Miscellaneous items including a flashlight, reading material, simple first-aid supplies (bandages, anti-bacterial spray, ointment), travel-size personal toiletries and a small sewing kit (such as the kind offered in hotels).
FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON THIS UNIT, VISIT OEM'S BE 2 WEEKS READY WEBPAGE AT
www.oregon.gov/oem/be2weeksready