

In October of 2019, my husband and I were awakened at 1:00 am, during of a planned PG&E blackout, by banging on our front door. "EVACUATE, EVACUATE!", shouted the Moraga policeman, and then he was gone. I opened the front door, saw the red glow of fire across the street and smelled smoke. In the dark, we stumbled and dressed, grabbed a few belongings and raced for our cars that were parked on the driveway in anticipation of the blackout. In our haste, we left behind most important items, including both of our cell phones.

Fortunately, we were able to return to our undamaged home later that morning. But the experience rattled me to my core. I procrastinated about creating a Go Bag for years. Now, I vowed to literally "get it together". During our shelter in place period, I have taken advantage of newfound free time to assemble the material needed. All the sources were at my fingertips: Amazon, REI, and rummaging in my closets.

Here is the list of what I have put into each bag. We have one easy to carry duffel bag per person in each of our cars.

Change of clothing, including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, hat, jacket and sturdy shoes

First-aid kit

One week's supply of prescription medications

Emergency survival blanket

Packet of Wet-Ones, tissues, TP, and a disposal bag

Emergency poncho

Hand crank radio

Air activated hand warmers

12-hour light stick

Water purification tablets

Whistle on a cord

Emergency drinking water

Bendable straws

Emergency wind up flashlight

Swiss Army knife

1-gallon Ziplock bags

Dust mask

Safety glasses

Duct tape

Waterproof matches in waterproof container

Small notepad and pencil

Hand sanitizer

Card with emergency contact numbers

Garbage bag and plastic ties

Dehydrated food and energy bars

Work gloves

Cash in small bills

Copies of important documents

Sleeping bag

Fully charged portable charger/adaptor cord for cell phone

Maybe you will think of other things to include. I welcome your suggestions.

Andrea Green