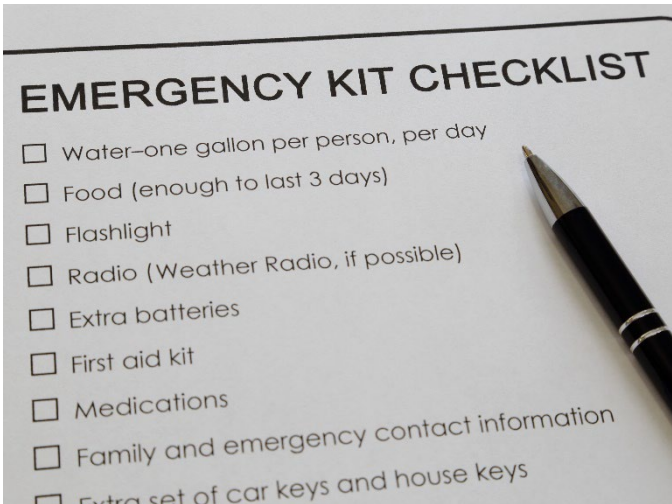


## Refresh Your Preparedness

Happy new year! Now that the holidays are over, it’s the perfect time to refresh your emergency preparedness plans. If you focus on one aspect of your plan each week, you’ll be ready when disaster strikes.



### Create a Checklist

The first thing you should do is take a moment to think about your top priorities. Make a checklist of the things you need to do and create a plan on how to tackle the checklist. Keep it short and sweet. Don’t get overwhelmed – tackle each item one at a time.

### Be Ready for Emergencies

Check your food, water, medications, and other necessities to make sure nothing has expired. Go through your first aid kit to make sure it has everything you need. Make sure your list of family, friends and neighbors is up to date. Double-check phone numbers and confirm your contacts know what to do in case of a fire, flood or severe weather.



### Store Important Documents

They may not be your top priority in the midst of a catastrophe, but it’s important to have critical documents you’ll need to get back on your feet again. Collect banking, investment and property information, passports, birth certificates and other important documents and put them in a fireproof lockbox. Stow some cash in there, as well: You never know if ATMs, credit cards and banks will be accessible.

### Remember Your Pets

Set aside food, medication, leashes and other necessities for your pets. Treats and a favorite toy will help ease their stress. Take pictures of them in case you get separated. Jot down contact information for their vet and keep their vaccination records handy. If you are in a situation where you need to evacuate, many shelters do not take pets. Make sure you have a plan for them.



Do you have your emergency supply of water and food, and have taken other steps to prepare for emergencies?

[Click here for past editions of the emergency preparedness tip newsletters.](#)



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