

EVACUATION

*It's 3:15 AM and you are awakened by a ringing telephone. Never good news. You answer to hear the County Emergency Management agency telling you that a train has derailed alongside Highway 30 and a train car filled with chlorine gas is leaking. The wind is carrying the deadly gas toward where you live. **You have to evacuate, now!** What do you take with you as panic begins to set in? There's a deadly gas headed your way. You must hurry!*



Because your family has prepared for a sudden evacuation from home, you quickly get dressed in warm clothing, grab your Bug-Out-Bags as you lock your home and head for your car. You know that in your car and in your bag(s), you have enough supplies needed for spending the next several hours / days away from home.

Has this ever happened here? Not that I know of. **Could** something like that happen here? It definitely can. The following information can help you prepare for such an emergency.



Columbia County; Columbia Alert Network (CAN).

Basically a “reverse 9-1-1,” where emergency dispatch can send alert messages to those who subscribe, similar to our *One Call Now* system. (Although the county’s system won’t notify you of important board meetings, picnics and garage sales. 😊)

From the network web site:

“Get alerted about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for our Emergency Alert Program. This system enables us to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.”

“You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more. You pick where, you pick how.”

You can sign up for this service by going to the Columbia Alert Network web page;

<http://www.columbia911.com/general/page/columbia-alert-network-can>

Simply fill in the form and at the bottom of the page, check the box, click the “create account” button and you’re in. The best part is, **it costs you nothing.** If you are unable to sign up, please contact our Management team for assistance.

Ran



The following is from the Springlake SCOOP of February 2018.

So, what should we prepare for? Good question. Who knows? A casual visit to the Internet reveals many reasons to prepare. Anything from floods, fires, earthquakes, tornados, hurricanes, tsunamis, to a breakdown of society, economic or electrical grid failure, nuclear war, Zombie invasion, etc. There are some “prepper” groups which are way out in the *Twilight Zone*, but many others are closer to reality. Because of the nuclear war threats in the 1960’s, many Americans built fallout shelters. I’m not suggesting anything like that. It’s unlikely anything that bad will ever happen, **BUT**, North Korea does have the ability to hit us right now.

How often have you seen survivors interviewed on TV after a disaster wiped out their homes, who said something like; *“I never thought anything like that would ever happen here.”* **Reality check:** No matter what **“IT”** is, bad things can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time. We’re vulnerable to both the forces of nature, and human folly. We live next to a rail line which at any time may have a rail car, or cars filled with *who knows what*, leaking, or derailed. We’re in a flood zone. Depending on which way the wind is blowing, we live beneath airline approaches to PDX. Also depending on the wind, there’s always Mt. St. Helens.

How will we know if we need to evacuate? Some of us are connected to *Columbia Emergency Alert Network*, also known as “Reverse 9-1-1.” Anyone can sign up for that service.(<http://www.columbia911.com/general/page/columbia-alert-network-can>) Cable Television providers, as well as local area radio and TV providers, are able to interrupt programming for emergency announcements,. Springlake residents also have the option of **“One Call Now.”** To any Springlakers not signed onto *One Call Now*, I recommend that you subscribe. It costs nothing and you can limit the kinds of calls you wish to receive to emergency calls only if you aren’t interested in the other types of notifications. Please see our Management Team for details. As a reminder, while typing this I received a test alert from my mobile phone provider.

If in the event of a major disaster requiring evacuation, seconds may count. You can save precious time by having a means to rapidly leave home with provisions suitable for a limited absence. Call it a “Go Bag,” “Bug Out Bag,” or “G.O.O.D. (Get Out Of Dodge) bag, having necessary items pre-packed and ready to go on a moment’s notice may make all the difference in the rest of your life. I’ll discuss having a bag ready to go next time. In the meantime, give it some thought. If you had to leave home, right now, what would you grab? How long will it take to decide what to pack in an emergency? If the decisions have already been made and a bag is already put together, you are prepared.

TIP: *Subscribe to an online computer backup service.* *In the event of an evacuation, or other event where you might lose your computer’s data, it can be recovered at a later time. Twice when we’ve suffered computer failures, one during a power black-out surge, we were able to recover everything we thought was lost. Also known as a “cloud,” enter “online backup service” in your search engine (Google, etc.) for available services. Think of it as insurance. Not for the hardware, but for data, including photographs.*



A word of caution: Many web sites are owned by commercial vendors who offer lists of equipment “needed” in your bag and may offer those items for sale. Some, including the American Red Cross, offer “complete” BOBs for sale. What to include in an evacuation bag is different for each person. There is no practical one size fits all. Sure, some things such as changes of clothes, underwear, toilet paper, personal hygiene, emergency food & water, multi tools, knife, etc, etc. But there are many other items you may wish to consider, that will fit your circumstances. Very importantly, don’t forget medications, cash and important documents.

You will also notice many politically oriented ads on the Internet sites. Ignore them if you wish, and focus on the survival and other useful information offered.

Avoid the temptation to buy a bag, or back pack and then begin to fill it up. You may find that you didn’t get a big enough bag. But also try to avoid over filling the bag with things you probably won’t need in an evacuation. No one can tell you what you will need. Not to mention, all this stuff has **weight**. My personal bag (pictured below) weighs 30 pounds. That doesn’t sound like much, until you have to carry it for a couple of miles. I managed to incorporate luggage accessories which have wheels on them. Most suitcases on the market include telescoping handles and wheels, and would work perfectly fine for a middle of the night *grab and go*.

Another thing to look out for (by personal experience), are “free” tools and gear. I’ve ordered a few useful things for the cost of shipping, but I’ve also been stung by not reading the fine print. For instance, I have a couple of knives and one tactical flashlight that I only paid shipping and handling, about \$9.00. Not a bad deal. On the other hand, I wound up with some unadulterated junk. *Caveat emptor*.

Whether you use the information listed here, or simply enter “bug out bag” in your favorite search engine, you will no doubt find the amount of information online simply overwhelming. (I just did a “Google” search and got 197,000,000 hits.)

A brief word about important documents. You may want to place all original documents in one place which can be accessed rapidly. I chose to place all original documents, including car and home titles, birth certificates, passports, and other valuables into a zippered 3 ring binder, which I keep in a fire-proof safe. Easily accessible, but also safe in the event of a house fire.



My B.O.B.



Important documents.

Should I have food in my BOB?

*A mistake that lots of people make when they're packing food into their bug out bags is packing foods that are too heavy. Sure, things like trail mix and peanut butter are packed full of calories but they'll weigh down your pack. And, trust me, if you've even had to walk more than a few miles with a pack on your back, **you feel every pound**.*

The best way to save weight when packing food in your bug out bag is to pack freeze dried food. Why? Because freeze-dried meals are lightweight, easy to cook, and packed with calories. Freeze-dried meals are what I carry in my bug out bag and in my pack when I'm hiking and camping. Not only are they light weight, they are incredibly easy to cook.

[Commercial advertisement]

And one brand shines above the rest because of how you cook it. [The Mountain House brand of freeze-dried food](#) helps with weight reduction by allowing you to cook the food directly in the pouch!

This might not sound like much, but by not needing a pot to cook your food food you can save a lot of space and 1-2 pounds of weight. Instead of dumping the food into a boiling pot of water (like other survival food directions) you add the boiling water to [the pouch](#). Again, I hope you realize how important this is for cooking [a good meal in the wild](#). This allows you to use a lightweight backpacking stove (I use [a Jet Boil](#)) to boil water and pour the water in the pouch. No mess AND less cooking gear.

Stay Safe **"Just in Case" Jack** (Co-Founder of Skilled Survival)



The following internet sites and PDF articles offer information and guidance for building your Bug-Out-Bag (B.O.B.), also known as a G.O.O.D. bag (Get Out Of Dodge), a GO bag and other similar terms. Bear in mind, these sources are also running ads with many cool gadgets for sale. No one can know what someone else needs to survive. There are several good ideas presented, but I would recommend shopping around for what you believe you will need or find useful.

<https://www.thebugoutbagguide.com/> Bug-Out-Bag guide

<https://www.thebugoutbagguide.com/bug-out-bag-list/> Bug-Out-Bag list

<https://www.thebugoutbagguide.com/cheap-prepping/> Prepping For Pennies

<https://modernsurvivalonline.com/infographic-bug-out-bag-the-essentials/>

<https://modernsurvivalonline.com/infographic-bug-out-bag-checklist/>

<https://www.skilledsurvival.com/free-bug-out-bag-checklist/>



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bugout 5 Red Cross
guide.pdf

Red Cross bug out guide



bugout 4 Prep
cost.pdf

Bug out supplies cost



bugout 3 BOB list.pdf

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