

The “10 Minute Drill”

Purpose:

The purpose of the 10 minute drill is to identify those important documents and personal items that you want to save if you only had 10 minutes to evacuate your home before the onset of a wildfire or flood. Additionally, at your leisure, you would stage these items in such a manner that they could be rounded up and placed in a vehicle in under 10 minutes.

Methodology:

You would want to go through this exercise at your leisure and start with walking through the rooms of your home and garage, taking photographs or videos of each room, detailing the most expensive items that might need to be replaced. Additionally, you would want to identify those key items that could be staged in such a manner and centrally located for quick and easy retrieval. These items include and are not limited to;

- important documents such as tax returns, passports, licenses, trusts, and any other legal documents
- prescription drugs, pet cages/food/leashes, photo albums, laptop computers, phone charging stations, thumb drives containing important documents, photos, and emails
- high school and college yearbooks, weapons, jewelry, and cash, as well as a listing of all bank accounts, credit card accounts, loan numbers, and their respective passwords

Many of these items could be stored in a small suitcase or two, for a quick grab-and-go scenario

Other Considerations:

- Locate the valve to turn off the house natural gas supply and have a wrench placed in its immediate vicinity, permanently.
- Consider packing separately, 2-3 days' worth of spare clothing, including underwear and shoes

Also, identify a central location, should you need to evacuate, where you can meet up with other family members