



"GO BAGS" INTERNATIONAL

Objectives:

To provide exhibit goers with an opportunity to think about preparing their own emergency supplies in a "go-bag."

To encourage people to think about their "go-bag" in a personal (rather than a prescriptive) way.



Participants: all ages **Facilitators:** 1-2 depending on crowd

Duration: 1-5 minutes **Capacity:** >100 per hour

Materials Needed:

Family "Go-Bags" from 4-8 countries: Commonly these are back-packs, or easily carried, with some weather-resistant feature.

Universal items found in "go-bags" are:

- Min. 1 liter/quart of drinking water.
- Flashlight (wind-up, solar or battery operated)
- Radio (wind-up, solar, or battery-operated)
- First aid supplies
- High-energy, nutritious, long-life food

Other items vary by local conditions, family composition, specific hazard or individual needs, and culture. Some examples are:

For flood - life jacket

For rain - plastic sheeting

For volcanic eruption - face mask

For latrines - shovel

For building marking/messages - markers, paper

For babies - clothing, food, diaper

For pets - pet food, leash

Handouts: Family Disaster Plan, "What's in Your Go-Bag?" coloring handout for children, posters illustrating hazards and community-based risk reduction efforts in each of the country represented (if possible)

Steps:

1. Place each item in a plastic bag and seal the bag. This will allow more people to touch the items without damaging items.



2. Attach string or cord securely to each bag, and to a metal ring or clasp. Attach the clasp to a handle on the bag itself. This will allow the items from each bag to stay together, and will help make sure that nothing disappears.

3. Display each poster and its related bags together.



4. As viewers look at the exhibit, ask what disaster and emergencies situations they may face where they live. If they have a bag, what is in it? If they don't what do they think they might put in it? If they have moved, or have family elsewhere, they may compare their needs in different locations. Discuss unusual items and good ideas from the international and regional bags displayed.

5. Provide adults and children with a Family Disaster Plan and point out the list of supplies that they might put in a "go-bag" and discuss the other supplies that they might keep at home in an accessible place. Discuss rotating perishable supplies twice a year, during spring and fall equinox (or similar memorable occasion).

7. Discuss whether emergency supplies are kept in visitor's school and workplaces. In some places children bring a bag with water / food / change of clothing / emergency contact information / photo of family and comfort item to school during the first week and take it home at the end of the school year.

6. Provide children with a single page with outline drawing of an empty backpack, and provide crayons to draw the things they think they'll need in the backpack. Display the children's drawings or make it a competition with a flashlight or similar useful item for top prizes.



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