

Business emergency kit for wildfires

An emergency kit, specially tailored for businesses facing wildfires, should be well-equipped to cater to the immediate needs of the business and its employees. Here's a suggested list for consideration and collection:

ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS

- Copies of business licenses, insurance policies, contracts, lease agreements, and other critical business documents in a waterproof bag or container.
- An updated list of employee and key stakeholder contact details.
- Emergency service contacts, including local fire departments, hospitals, and utility companies.

COMMUNICATION DEVICES

- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio.
- Extra fully charged mobile phone batteries or power banks.
- A whistle to signal for help.

FIRST AID KIT

- Sterile gauze and bandages in various sizes.
- Antiseptic wipes and antibiotic ointment.
- Pain relievers (e.g., aspirin or non-aspirin pain relievers).
- Tweezers, scissors, and a digital thermometer.
- A CPR face shield and first-aid manual.

SAFETY SUPPLIES

- N95 respirator masks to protect against smoke inhalation.
- Safety goggles for eye protection.
- Leather work gloves.
- Several flashlights or headlamps with extra batteries stored in a waterproof bag.
- Something like a pocket knife or multi-screwdriver to turn off utilities or serve multiple functions.

OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS

- A minimum of one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.
- Non-perishable food items like energy bars, canned goods (with a manual can opener), and dried fruits.
- Keep cash on hand in case electronic payment methods are down.
- A change of clothing for each employee, stored in waterproof bags. You might consider vacuum sealing these bags to make them easier to carry.
- Compact emergency blankets.
- Medications for employees who might need them (ensure regular checks for expiration dates).
- Baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, and other personal hygiene items.
- Special requirements for infants or individuals with specific needs.
- Local maps for identifying evacuation routes or alternative routes in case primary paths are compromised.
- Backup keys to the business premises and company vehicles.
- Assorted chargers for different types of phones and a car charger.
- Flares or reflective triangles can be useful if you need to signal for help, especially at night.
- If employees might bring pets to the workplace, include pet care supplies such as food, water, leashes, and carriers to accommodate them during a wildfire.

Check and update the contents of your business emergency kit regularly to ensure everything remains functional and relevant. It's also a good idea to customize the kit further based on any unique needs or characteristics of your business and its location.

For more information on wildfire safety and protection, visit westlandinsurance.ca/wildfire-information