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## **Build It Before It's Too Late**

**Instructor** -- Chris Jenkins

**Division** -- Seattle

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**Job Name** -- SMC NT

**Foreman** -- Erik Gladsjo

**Attendance** -- Erik Gladsjo, Chris Jenkins, Guillermo Avina Marmolejo, Justin Cimorelli, Michael White, Joshua Lawrence, Jose Sanchez Garibay, Noah Bos, Skylar Anderson, Ryan Krahmer, Stephen Johnson, Norm Hookland, Eric Packnett, Donte Davis, Ronaldo Negrete-Nolasco, Adam Baker

### **Comments:**

Continuing our focus on emergency readiness, let's talk about something most people don't think about: until they wish they had.

Whether it's a natural disaster, power outage, bridge collapse, or civil unrest, emergencies can happen fast:and they don't care where you are when they hit. If something shuts the world down for 24:48 hours, do you have what you need to get home:

That's where the Get-Home Bag (GHB) comes in.

### **What's a Get-Home Bag:**

It's not a full survival kit or bug-out bag. Think of it as a medium-sized backpack you keep in your truck, gang box, or by your desk:packed with the essentials to help you get home safely if modern conveniences suddenly disappear.

## **Why It Matters for Us**

We work in multiple states: the PNW, the Heartland, and the Mountain regions, which often are far from home.

Roads could close. Cell networks might crash. Gas pumps could be useless.

Walking 10:30 miles home or hunkering down safely might be your only option.

## **What to Keep in your GHB.**

Everyone's GHB will be a little different. Your gear should reflect your geography, climate, personal needs, and how far you might need to travel. Here's a starter guide:

### **The Bag Itself**

Medium-sized, comfortable backpack : nothing flashy or tactical-looking.

## **Navigation and Communication**

Fully charged cell phone & power bank or small solar panel.

Paper map of your area & compass.

Emergency radio (hand-crank or solar).

Small waterproof notepad, pen & pencil (highly suggest a grease pencil too).

Whistle, signal mirror & high-visibility flagging tape.

## **First Aid & Hygiene**

Basic first aid kit (bandages, pain relievers, moleskin, etc.).

Any personal prescriptions.

Hand sanitizer, wet wipes, mini-TP roll (nature will call).

Bonus points for a small trauma kit (if you're trained).

## **Shelter & Warmth**

Rain jacket or poncho.

Emergency blanket or bivvy bag.

Hat and gloves (especially for colder climates).

## Food & Water

1-2 liters of water + filter straw & purification tablets.

High-energy snacks (granola or protein bars, jerky, trail mix, something you can eat on the move).

## Tools & Lighting

Multi-tool or knife.

Silcock tool (for opening hose bibs without handles).

Flashlight or headlamp + spare batteries.

Duct tape and paracord (of course).

Heavy Duty Zip Ties, 12:-24: (super versatile and quick to use).

Lighter, waterproof matches and tinder.

## Personal Items

Cash : \$200 in small bills.

ID and few copies in a waterproof pouch.

Safety glasses, bandana or N95 dust masks, spare socks, sturdy shoes.

## Tips to keep in mind

**Pack light.** This is for getting home : not living in the woods.

**Test it.** Throw it on and take a walk. If it sucks to carry, fix it.

**Update it.** Swap out expired items and seasonal gear.

**Keep it accessible.** Vehicle, gang box, office : just don't bury it under junk.

Emergencies don't wait until you're off the clock and in sweatpants. They hit when they hit: on-site, on the road, or at the office. Your Get-Home Bag isn't about being paranoid : it's about being prepared. It gives you options when the unexpected happens.

## Remember This!

:You don't rise to the occasion : you fall to your level of preparation.:

Taking a few hours to build and maintain a Get-Home Bag could make all the difference when things go sideways. Whether you're in the field, warehouse, or office, **this applies to you.**

Stay ready. Stay safe. Get home.