HOW TO PACK A GO-BAG

BY PHOEBE LONGHI

ON JANUARY 7TH, 2025, MY TURTLE LOGAN AND I EVACUATED HOLLYWOOD TO ESCAPE THE SUNSET FIRE.

CAUGHT BETWEEN THE PALISADES AND ALTADENA FIRES THAT HAD ALREADY RAGED FOR TWO DAYS WITHOUT CONTAINMENT, NOWHERE IN LA FELT SAFE ANYMORE.

LIKE MANY OF MY FRIENDS, I NAIVELY BELIEVED THAT BEING IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY WOULD PROTECT ME.

WHY WOULD I NEED A GO-BAG? I LIVE IN HOLLYWOOD, THE WHOLE CITY WOULD HAVE TO BURN FOR MY NEIGHBORHOOD TO BE EVACUATED!

AS I MADE THE LONG DRIVE TO PLAYA DEL REY TO STAY WITH A FRIEND, I CALLED MY MOM TO THANK HER. SHE HAD SUGGESTED I PACK A GO-BAG THE NIGHT BEFORE, JUST IN CASE.

OF ALL MY FRIENDS IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD, I WAS THE ONLY ONE PREPARED TO EVACUATE, AND KNEW WHAT TO SAVE.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL BECOME A CLIMATE CHANGE REFUGEE, SO LETS LEARN HOW TO PACK A WILDFIRE GO-BAG!

?

WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT WHAT TO PACK IN THREE DIFFERENT SCENARIOS:

1. **IMMEDIATE EVACUATION:** (LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES)

2. **STANDBY EVACUATION:** (POSSIBLE EVACUATION IN ONE HOUR OR LESS)

3. **EVACUATION WARNING:** (BORDERING AN EVACUATION ZONE)

BUT FIRST, YOUR GO-BAG! MAKE SURE YOUR BAG IS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION: NO TEARS, HOLES, OR PATCHES. YOU DON'T WANT YOUR BAG TO BREAK IN THE MIDDLE OF EVACUATION!

I WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND A BAG WITH EXTRA SUPPORT, SUCH AS A HIKING BACKPACK OR ONE WITH WHEELS. WORST-CASE SCENARIO, YOU'LL HAVE TO EVACUATE ON FOOT. DON'T LET YOUR GO-BAG SLOW YOU DOWN!

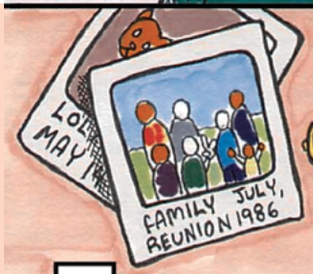
NOW THAT WE HAVE OUR BAG, IT'S TIME TO PACK!

HERE'S WHAT TO PACK FOR **IMMEDIATE EVACUATION:**

USE THIS COMIC AS A CHECKLIST!



☐ YOUR ID, PASSPORT, BIRTH CERTIFICATE, OR ANY OTHER IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS.

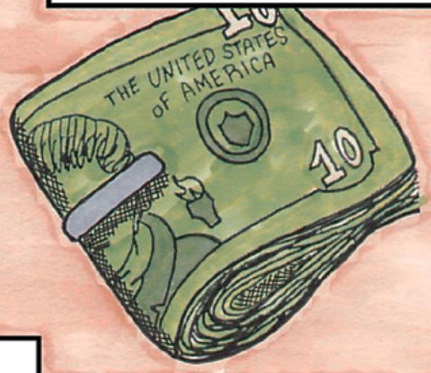




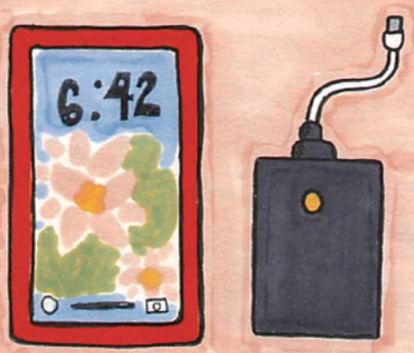
☐ ANY FAMILY HEIRLOOMS, PHOTO ALBUMS, OR SENTIMENTAL ITEMS THAT CANNOT BE REPLACED.



☐ ANY MEDICATIONS YOU REQUIRE DAILY OR IN AN EMERGENCY.



☐ ANY EMERGENCY STASHES OF PAPER CASH AND CREDIT CARDS.

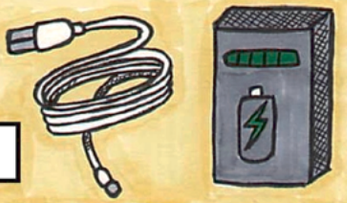


☐ ANY HARD DRIVES, AND ESPECIALLY, YOUR CELL PHONE!

GOT ALL THAT? NOW LET'S GO OVER WHAT TO BRING FOR EVACUATION STANDBY.

EVACUATION STANDBY MEANS THAT YOU HAVE MORE PREP TIME, SO YOU CAN BRING SOME PRACTICAL ITEMS FOR WHEN YOU'RE EN ROUTE TO A SAFE LOCATION.





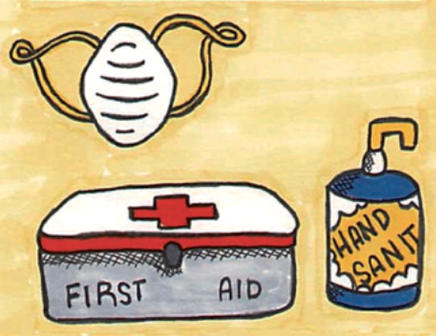
☐ BATTERY BANKS AND CHARGING CABLES.



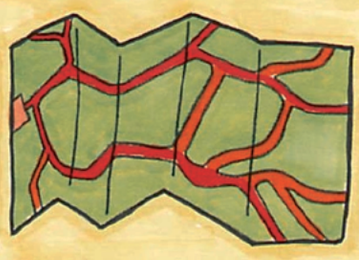
☐ TOILETRIES, 1-2 CHANGES OF CLOTHING, AND 3-4 CHANGES OF SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR.



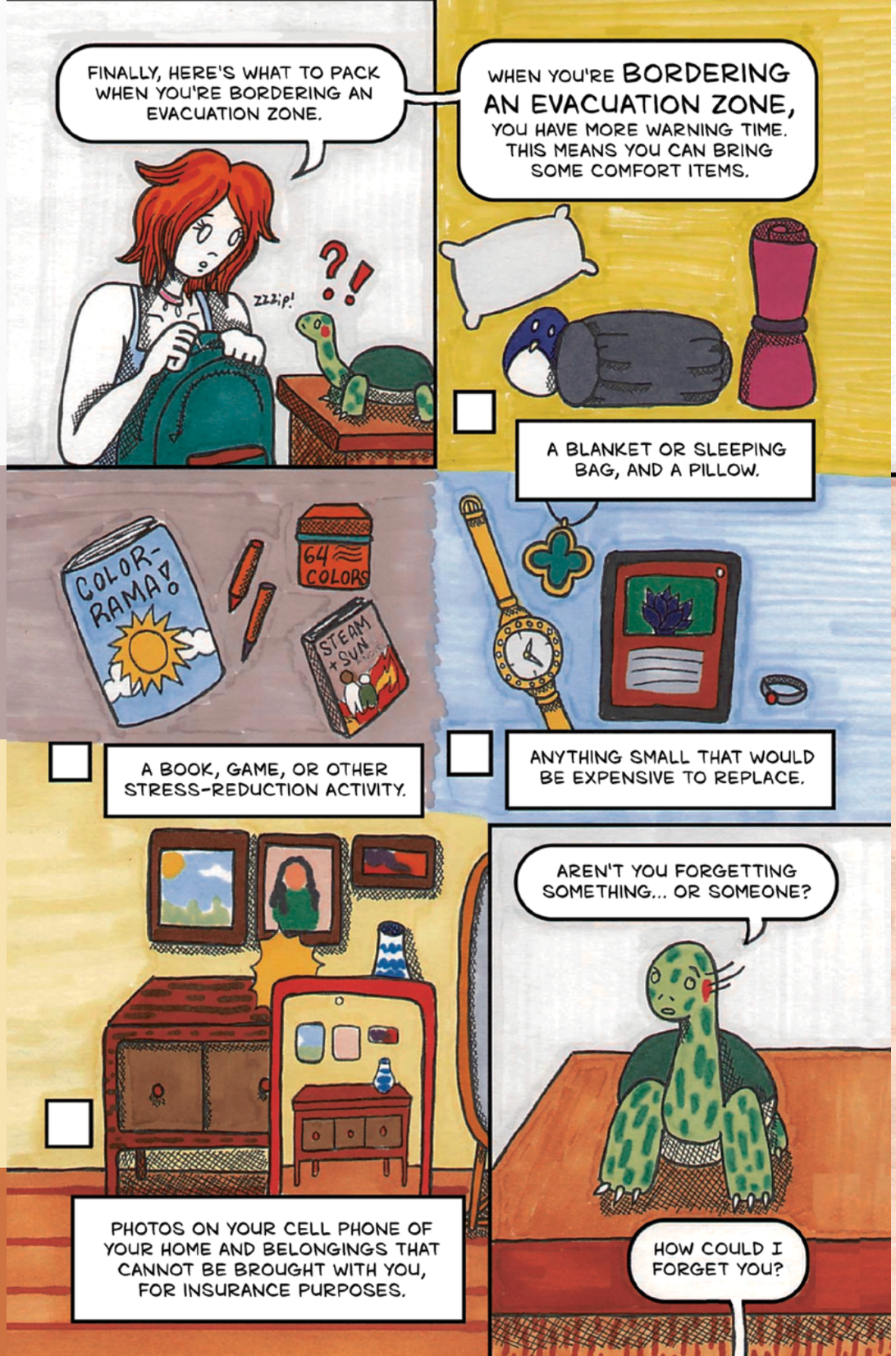
☐ THREE DAYS WORTH OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD AND THREE GALLONS OF WATER PER PERSON.



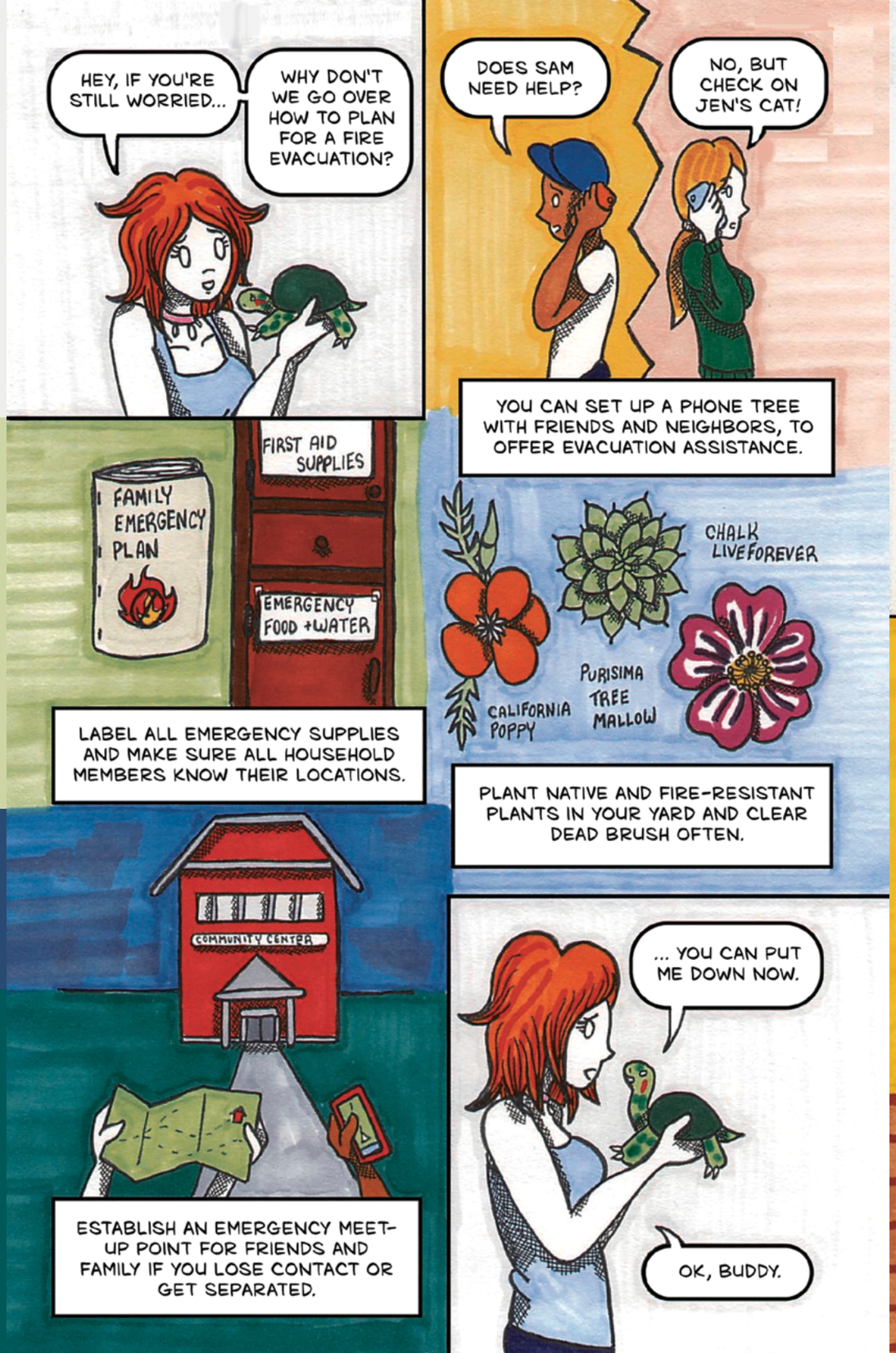
☐ A FIRST AID KIT AND SANITATION SUPPLIES. (KN95 MASKS ARE ALSO RECOMMENDED!)



☐ A MAP WITH AT LEAST TWO FIRE EVACUATION ROUTES.


FINALLY, HERE'S WHAT TO PACK WHEN YOU'RE BORDERING AN EVACUATION ZONE.
ZZZip!
?!
WHEN YOU'RE BORDERING AN EVACUATION ZONE, YOU HAVE MORE WARNING TIME. THIS MEANS YOU CAN BRING SOME COMFORT ITEMS.
A BLANKET OR SLEEPING BAG, AND A PILLOW.
COLOR-RAMA
64 COLORS
STEAM SUN
A BOOK, GAME, OR OTHER STRESS-REDUCTION ACTIVITY.
ANYTHING SMALL THAT WOULD BE EXPENSIVE TO REPLACE.
PHOTOS ON YOUR CELL PHONE OF YOUR HOME AND BELONGINGS THAT CANNOT BE BROUGHT WITH YOU, FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES.
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING... OR SOMEONE?
HOW COULD I FORGET YOU?


LOGAN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL US ABOUT HOW TO EVACUATE WITH PETS?
I'D LOVE TO!
IF YOU'RE EVACUATING WITH AN ANIMAL, HERE'S WHAT TO BRING:
IF YOU HAVE AN IMMEDIATE EVACUATION ORDER:
ANY MEDICATIONS YOUR PET TAKES DAILY OR REQUIRES IN AN EMERGENCY.
ANY CARRIERS, LEASHES, OR COLLARS REQUIRED FOR IDENTIFICATION OR TRANSPORT.
FOR EVACUATION STANDBY:
KITTY CHOW 100% MEAT
TUNA
TUNA
THREE DAYS WORTH OF PET FOOD AND WATER.
THANKS, LOGAN!
I'M STILL WORRIED, THOUGH...


HEY, IF YOU'RE STILL WORRIED...
WHY DON'T WE GO OVER HOW TO PLAN FOR A FIRE EVACUATION?
DOES SAM NEED HELP?
NO, BUT CHECK ON JEN'S CAT!
YOU CAN SET UP A PHONE TREE WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, TO OFFER EVACUATION ASSISTANCE.
FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN
FIRST AID SUPPLIES
EMERGENCY FOOD +WATER
LABEL ALL EMERGENCY SUPPLIES AND MAKE SURE ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS KNOW THEIR LOCATIONS.
CHALK LIVE FOREVER
CALIFORNIA POPPY
PURISIMA TREE MALLOW
PLANT NATIVE AND FIRE-RESISTANT PLANTS IN YOUR YARD AND CLEAR DEAD BRUSH OFTEN.
COMMUNITY CENTER
ESTABLISH AN EMERGENCY MEET-UP POINT FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY IF YOU LOSE CONTACT OR GET SEPARATED.
... YOU CAN PUT ME DOWN NOW.
OK, BUDDY.


IF YOU'RE STILL WORRIED, KEEP THIS IN MIND...
THE ONE THING YOU CANNOT REPLACE IS YOURSELF.
EVERYTHING YOU LOSE CAN BE REPLACED OR MOURNED, BUT YOUR SAFETY SHOULD BE YOUR FIRST PRIORITY.
REMEMBER, DON'T PANIC! BE PREPARED.
IF YOU EVER NEED THIS GUIDE, YOU CAN FIND IT IN THE BACK OF THE BOOK!
HEY, DID YOU REMEMBER TO PACK MY TREATS?

Nonprofit Spotlight

For each of our free eBooks, the storytellers select a local Los Angeles nonprofit to highlight. The creator of "How to Pack a Go-Bag" chose the California Wildlife Center.

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CENTER
SINCE 1998

From the Creator

"One of my favorite things about Los Angeles is the amount of urban wildlife living in the city. I live in Hollywood, south of Runyon Canyon, and share my neighborhood with possums, raccoons, parrots, squirrels, and a variety of other animals. When the Palisades Fire broke out, one of my first thoughts was for the wild animals in the neighborhood, who had no means of evacuation and are the most vulnerable in the face of climate change. Since my comic is inspired by my own experience evacuating with my pet, I wanted to nominate the California Wildlife Center and the work they do to protect native species. We are privileged to live in a city with so much green space, and to lose that would be a tragedy."

--Phoebe Longhi, Creator of "How to Pack a Go-Bag"

You can read about and donate to the California Wildlife Center here.

Debuting January 2027!

Preorder the physical book:
OAKTREECOMICS.COM



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