

Emergency Supply Kit Use and Contents Among Households in Southwest Florida During Hurricane Ian

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2022 DISASTERS AND EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT SURVEY



Overview

Being prepared for natural disasters, such as hurricanes, is important. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages households to maintain an emergency supply kit (ESK), allowing them to remain self-sufficient, or sheltered-in-place, for a minimum of three days. FEMA recommends that ESKs include enough supplies to last for several days, including water and non-perishable food, batteries, a flashlight, a hand-crank or battery-operated radio, a first aid kit, and medicine or other specific household needs.

From October through December 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducted a survey in southwest Florida after Hurricane Ian, a category 4 storm, to assess the following:

- How households used ESKs during and immediately after the storm's impact
- The most useful ESK items
- What items were most needed
- Why individuals left their households during the first 72 hours of the disaster

Methods

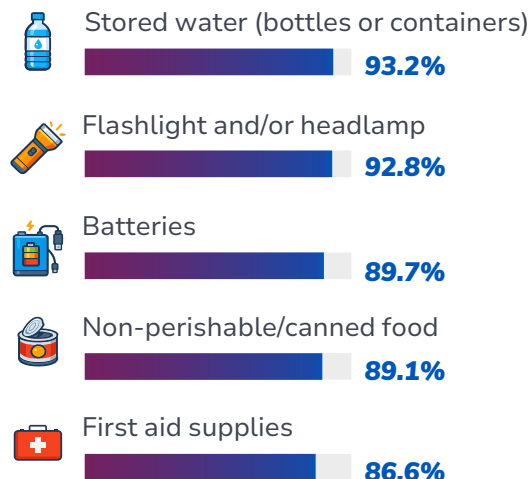
The survey took place in DeSoto, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, and Manatee counties. Households could complete the survey online or on paper. The survey examined demographic characteristics, having an ESK, items in a household ESK, and items most needed. Overall, 1,342 households completed the survey.



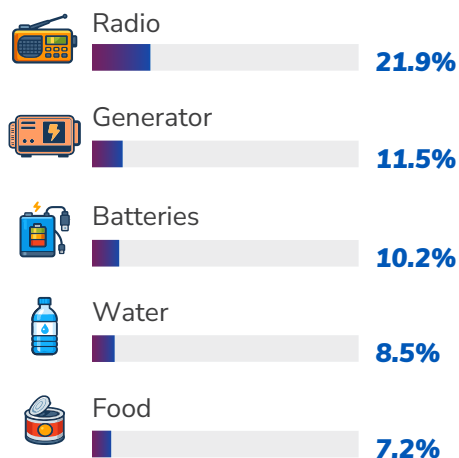
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Results

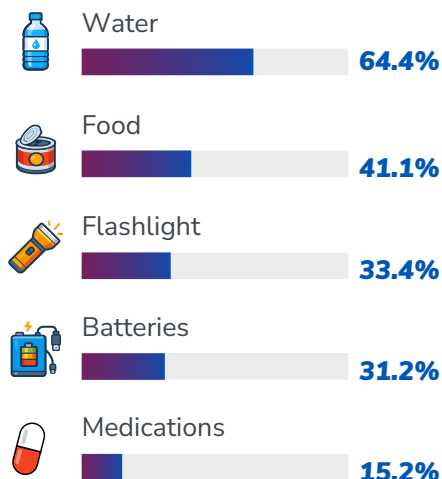
Most respondents (60.3%) reported having an ESK at the time of Hurricane Ian's impact. Of those that had an ESK, the most common items in their ESK were the following:



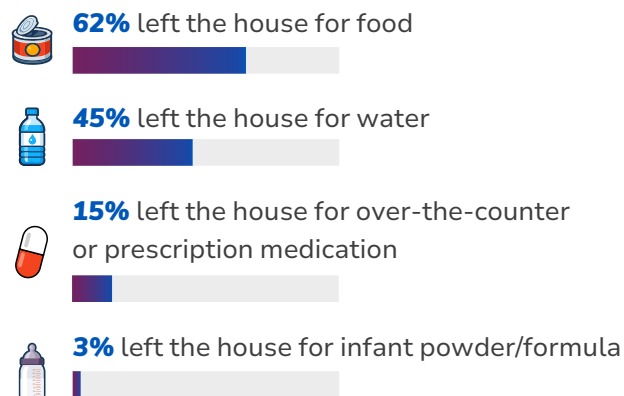
Items respondents wished they had (of those that had an ESK and reported at least one missing item):



Items that were most helpful (of those that had an ESK):



Overall, 54% of households left the home within the first 72 hours of Hurricane Ian landfall. Among households that left their home:



Related Resources:

[Natural Disasters and Severe Weather, Natural Disasters, CDC](#)

[Preparing for Hurricanes or Other Tropical Storms | Hurricanes | CDC](#)

[Safety Guidelines: After a Hurricane or Other Tropical Storm | Hurricanes | CDC](#)

[Ready Wrigley Prepares for Hurricanes](#)

[Preparing with Pedro the Penguin](#)

[Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities](#)

[Emergency Kit Checklist for Kids and Families, CDC](#)

[Emergency Preparedness and Response, CDC](#)