A little more ready.

Household emergency basics. Start with three days; build up gradually. Use what you have and adapt to your household.

> An independent checklist based on UK government Be Ready guidance. Not an official government publication.

Water

Bottled drinking water

Store 3 litres per person per day. Add water for cooking, washing and pets.

Food

Meals you can eat cold

Familiar long-life food, snacks and a manual tin opener. Check dietary needs.

Warmth

Bedding and warm layers

Blankets or suitable sleeping bags, warm clothes and somewhere safe to go.

Light & phone power

Torches and a charged power bank

Add matching spare batteries and charging cables. Test everything.

Radio & communication

Battery FM radio and paper contacts

Tune a local station now. Agree how to check on family if phones fail.

Money & documents

A little cash and essential copies

Small notes and coins within your means. Keep documents and cash secure.

Medicines & first aid

Usual treatment and a checked kit

Plan repeats with your pharmacy. Add an outage plan for medical equipment.

Hygiene & toilets

Soap, toilet roll and waste bags

Add toiletries and a plan for washing and toilet use if water stops.

A household plan

Contacts, a grab bag and a review date

Know where to go, who needs help and where supplies are. Check alarms.

Water: ___ people × ___ days × 3 litres = ___ litres for drinking.
Add supplies for babies, pregnancy, disability, care needs and pets where relevant.

Keep these numbers on paper

Emergency: 999 or 112
Immediate danger or life-threatening illness.

Gas emergency: 0800 111 999 (GB)
Northern Ireland: 0800 002 001.

Power cuts: 105 (Great Britain)
Northern Ireland: 03457 643 643.

Write down local contacts
Water provider, GP, pharmacy, council and trusted person.

These numbers need a working connection. If you smell gas, avoid flames and electrical switches; get to a safe place and call. Camping stoves and barbecues must only be used safely outdoors.

Interactive version: https://a-little-more-ready.pages.dev/

Guidance reviewed 6 November 2026. Based on UK Be Ready guidance: beready.campaign.gov.uk/be-ready-for-emergencies/