

Get Home Bag by KI5LNM

I don't know why this showed up in a search I was doing but it did catch my attention and so thought I would do a short bit on it tonight. The points I will make here can also be applied to many other situations as well.

We all know about Bug Out Bags and those for having things to hand when you need to head out to help in an emergency, or if the emergency comes to your place and you need to get out fast. But have you considered having with you when out a Get Home Bag?

One doesn't know when things may fall apart around you at a time that you are not home. Most people's first instinct when things aren't looking well is to get home. Say severe weather happens and you are away, a bridge collapses, flooding, power grid failure. One would want to get home to check on family, pets, livestock, and such things. Most feel safer at home with what is familiar around them. But what if you are at work or shopping or just away from home and something happens that will make getting home difficult what can one do to help get there.

Most of what I have looked at are assuming that in this case some event will happen in which you will not be able to drive home. So it is get out and try to get there on foot. Or one could even assume that traffic is so slow and you may just need to have enough with you to keep you going until things open up to get home. An example here is if you live up north and get stuck in a blizzard on the freeway over night.

There is a wide variety of what people think one would need in this situation. But here are a few things to consider.

My first suggestion which I need to desperately work on for myself is to work on your physical capability. If you were to need to walk some distance how easy would it be for you? I know I was in my best shape living in Germany where we often went on Volksmarches. A good ten kilometer walk every couple of weeks can go along way with how I felt and moved. But other means of exercise would be good to keep yourself limber and loose.

Another consideration here is the difference between an all purpose Bug Out Bag, which is very much an emergency bag or a 72 hour bag, and a Get Home Bag or a 24 hour bag. An example of the difference here is that an "emergency bag" may have a large very well supplied first aid kit that could handle anything and is easily stored in your vehicle. But a Get Home Bag could be just a basic first aid kit in a compact bag in your back pack. Also another difference can be that in a Bug Out Bag you may have your extra change of clothing. But in the case of a Get Home Bag where you could be doing a lot of walking, having several pairs of socks to change can be a life saver for your feet. Also depending on the shoes you normally wear, some small ones that are sturdy and good for a hike could be advantageous.

A way to look at this bag is that it is not there to sustain you over a long time period, but one that can keep you going a couple of days, at most, if needed with just basics. A bare minimum. Of course how far you travel from home can determine how much one might want. But having high energy bars and electrolytes to drink can be handier than meals when carrying it. Although some also prepare for having to camp out over night if your walk is going to be more than 15 miles which is an average day walk so add items to make that easier and actually plan more in food.

If you will need to walk home, then whatever bag you have for this event needs to be light enough so that you can easily carry it. You could pack everything possibly needed including the kitchen sink, but if you actually need to carry it very far - how far will you get before it becomes too heavy and you will start needing to dump stuff and make it lighter. So one needs to be very particular on what they think important, necessary, and of light weight. It is amazing what some can pack in a small bag.

Another consideration is the bag itself. If it did become a very chaotic time, the less noticeable your bag is to others could be to your advantage. Also being less noticeable could make it easier to walk out of a situation as you could just look like you have a basic simple backpack with normal day to day things in it and just pass by whatever is happening get on home.

I read one example of where a Get Home Bag would have been an advantage, and that was the day of 9/11. Many of the people that were near the towers (or inside and got out) found themselves in a world turned upside down. One issue that many had later was that with all the filth they were breathing in while the event happened and before they could get away, caused severe lung issues. If they had had a Get Home Bag with a N95 face mask inside, that trip out of there and home would have been much easier in the moment and for their health later. If thinking towards a small bag, this is a case where a fanny pack with a few things in it, including the mask, would have been a lifesaver and make getting away much easier with a few items you could use and not be totally without anything.

When considering a Get Home Bag, one can go from a fanny pack to a large backpack. One can have just a few necessities or add more for whatever situation they envision could happen. This can be quite a wide open ball game and is interesting to see what others think is important to have. But that also gives you a wide field to consider what in your situation and life would be handy to have to hand when all you want to do is get away and get home.