



**FIRSTCALL**

Corporate Security & Advisory Services

**IN THE BAG:  
AN EXECUTIVE SURVIVAL KIT**



How can executives ensure their personal safety and security while traveling within the United States or abroad?

## KNOW THE RISKS

In the event of political or social unrest, an executive survival kit provides a two-to-three day supply of critically needed items. The contents of the kit, which will vary by individual, are based on the executive's prior experiences, the countries they visit, and what they determine will ensure their survival during a two-to-three-day period.

The list of recommended contents detailed below provides an executive with a lightweight and versatile survival kit.

- **Food:** Energy bars or athletic bars that are high in calories and lightweight. These are often packaged to withstand moisture and exposure to the elements.
- **Water:** A water purification system, such as a battery-powered purifying system that uses ultra violet light or an eye dropper full of bleach. Iodine tablets can also purify water, which for the average person is two-to-four liters per day. The kit can include one or two water bottles. Packing a lightweight water purification system, however, provides the means to decontaminate a larger volume of water than can be carried in a survival kit.
- **Communications device:** A cell phone and a means to charge the battery. Use communication devices sparingly. Power them down when not in use. If possible, take your travel charger/battery with you.
- **Inclement weather clothing:** A nondescript water/wind-resistant jacket.
- **GPS device:** A GPS requires a battery. Pack a paper map of the area(s) in which you will be traveling as well.
- **Funds:** Cash is recommended. Spread it out between your person, several places in the survival kit and, possibly, a cache site. Make sure you include local currency as well as euros and U.S. dollars.
- **Headlamp:** In the event of a power failure, a headlamp will allow you to navigate in low light or darkness. It can also provide a signal to rescuers.
- **Medication:** Include a medical kit with pain and prescription medication, small bandages, and antibiotic ointment.
- **Identification:** A passport and driver's license are relatively easy to hide in an executive survival kit.
- **Encrypted thumb drive:** Store a copy of your passport and an abbreviated electronic copy of the duress packet.
- **Signaling device:** Include a whistle and/or a light to signal your location.
- **Shoes:** Comfortable, sturdy shoes to walk long distances and climb over rough terrain.



- **Chem Lights:** Provide illumination for up to six hours.
- **Watch:** Instead of relying on your cell phone's digital clock, which will use up the phone's charge, pack an inexpensive digital watch.
- **A rubber doorstep:** To prevent unauthorized access to a room, pack a rubber doorstep.

**Note:** Do not include weapons such as a firearm, pepper spray, or baton, as they are often illegal overseas.

**Armed Conflict** – At the end of 2014, there were 41 active conflicts, including high-intensity conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria as well as medium-intensity clashes in Mali, Turkey, and Mexico.<sup>1</sup>

**Coup D'état** – In May 2014, a coup d'état took place in Thailand.<sup>2</sup>

**Government-organized Demonstrations** – Pro-government demonstrations take place frequently in Africa, the Far East and, most recently, in parts of South America.

1. <https://acd.iiss.org/>
2. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-27517591>

**To obtain best practices for traveler safety and security measures, please contact [info@firstcallcss.com](mailto:info@firstcallcss.com)**

**Cache site:** Ideally, this is a common area that is easily accessible and protected from the elements. The cache site should only be accessible to a limited number of people. Avoid using the hotel's safe. It is often the first place criminals look for valuables.

**Duress package:** Prior to leaving the country, prepare a "duress package" that includes sensitive information that only you know. It should include information about next of kin, life insurance data, and a handwriting sample. Prepare two versions of the packet. Store one at your employer's office (in a safe) and the other at home.



# FIRSTCALL

Corporate Security & Advisory Services

FirstCall CSS  
Worldwide Headquarters  
One Sansome Street  
Suite 3500  
San Francisco, CA 94104 USA

+1 (415) 781-4300  
[info@firstcallcss.com](mailto:info@firstcallcss.com)  
[www.firstcallcss.com](http://www.firstcallcss.com)

©2017 FirstCall, Inc.  
CSS-2021603