

YAPs.



Thought of everything with

Max & Flocke

This backpack belongs to: .....



## Dear kids,

Today is a special evening for Max and his little sister. For the first time, they are allowed to stay home alone. Their parents are going to the birthday party of neighbor Schultze, two houses down the street. Max and his little sister would rather stay home and stay up late watching TV. "I'll come back later to bring you some pie and hot dogs", their dad promises.

So Max and his sister make themselves comfortable in front of the TV. Since Max got to choose the TV program the day before, it's his sister's turn today. She wants to watch the news. But what do they look at: pictures of flooded streets, uprooted trees, and cars of which you can only make out the roofs. This is not just anywhere, it's in the municipality Wasserstein. Wasserstein is only a few miles away from where Max and his family live. According to the news a huge river right next to Wasserstein burst its banks because of heavy rain. "Though most of the surrounding cities were spared from flood waters, the state of emergency has been declared. Because of flood waters widespread power blackouts can occur. Every citizen should theref ...". The kids can't listen to the reporter any further, because suddenly the TV, as well as the lights go out. "There's the blackout, that's why we're sitting in the dark.

Probably the phone isn't working either", Max says, worriedly. His sister anxiously moves closer to her brother. Behind the sofa Dog Flocke cocks his ears. "What is a disaster?", the sister asks Max. Max shrugs his shoulders, clueless how to respond. All of a sudden a flashlight shines in the





dark. It's Max' and his sister's parents. In his hands Max' father holds a whole tray of hotdogs. You can also eat them cold in a pinch, kids", he says with a grin. "You don't have to be scared, we are prepared for disasters." And while the mother is lighting up the fireplace, the father explains what a disaster is.

Enjoy reading, riddling and exploring

*Max*  
-----  
MAX





# What is a disaster, and who helps?

We use the word “disaster” to express that something very bad has happened, something that is going to mess up our life completely for a longer, uncertain time. It means that either people, our environment, our health or our supply are in danger. In a disaster, we are often not able to help ourselves anymore, and need others to support and help us. We are in distress. But sometimes even emergency helpers like the police, the fire department or hospitals are affected by the disaster. They are not able to work as usual anymore, and can no longer help people in emergency situations.

There are different causes of disasters: Besides humans themselves, technical or natural processes can be the reason. This includes floods or earthquakes as well as disasters like big fires, explosions or accidents with toxic chemicals getting into the ground. When such a situation happens there are special experts and helpers like the fire department, the police, various aid agencies and relief organizations. They specialize in helping and saving people, or supplying food and water in an emergency situation. But sometimes it can take a little time, until they can help everyone, because they can't be in all places at once. That's why it is important for you to know how to act in such a situation.





## Quiz

There was a storm and now the basement is filled with water. The water is knee-deep, and Max can't see the ground anymore. He wants to walk through the water from the basement stairs to the basement door.

Do you join in? Check the right answer (only one is correct).

- Yes, it's going to be fun!
- No, we don't know at all how deep the water is and if there's maybe electric current flowing through the water.
- No, there could be sharks in the water.





# Blackout

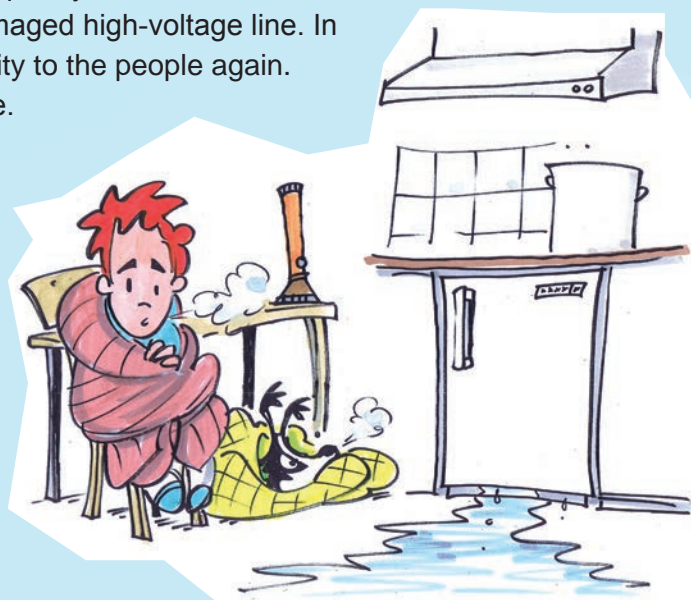
## - and now?



It happens more often than you think: a thousand times a year somewhere in Germany there's a breakdown of electric power. Usually it's only for a few seconds or minutes or only in small areas, like a street or a neighborhood. Many times, for example at night when we are sleeping, we don't even notice a blackout. When it happens during the day everything that needs electricity suddenly goes dead: the light, the computer, the mixer, the oven, the TV.

You might be surprised when this happens, but it is rarely dangerous.

There are different reasons for blackouts. For example, a power supply line may have broke, because of a storm or there is maintenance going on. In most cases experts are able to turn power back on quickly. Sometimes however there are bigger problems like floods, or a damaged high-voltage line. In these cases, it's not so easy to supply electricity to the people again. Then people are out of power for a longer time.





## A life without electricity and water – how does it work?

When electricity fails it means first of all, that no electronic devices work any longer. This has consequences: If the refrigerator and the frozen food compartment are out of power, they don't cool any longer. In many cases food spoils after a short time. In case of a power outage the heating and water supply is often out of order as well, because power is needed to heat up the



water running through the radiators. Usually there is no running water and particularly no warm water. Therefore, it's not only going to be dark in the apartments, but also cold. What are you supposed to drink, how will you cook your meal? How will you take a bath or even brush your teeth? That's why it's important to make provisions in advance: food with a long shelf life, drinks, especially water, but also flashlights, batteries and candles are important.

Experts have developed plans and guidelines, to help people prepare their homes with provision kits for a case of emergency, like a power outage. It would be nice, if you and your parents could buy these things together before something happens. It's too late to remember it when something has already happened. Keep in mind that you won't be able to cook or bake, because the oven, the water boiler or the microwave won't work, and the refrigerator won't work either. Neither can you prepare pizza and spaghetti, nor can you make a soup or fry a schnitzel.

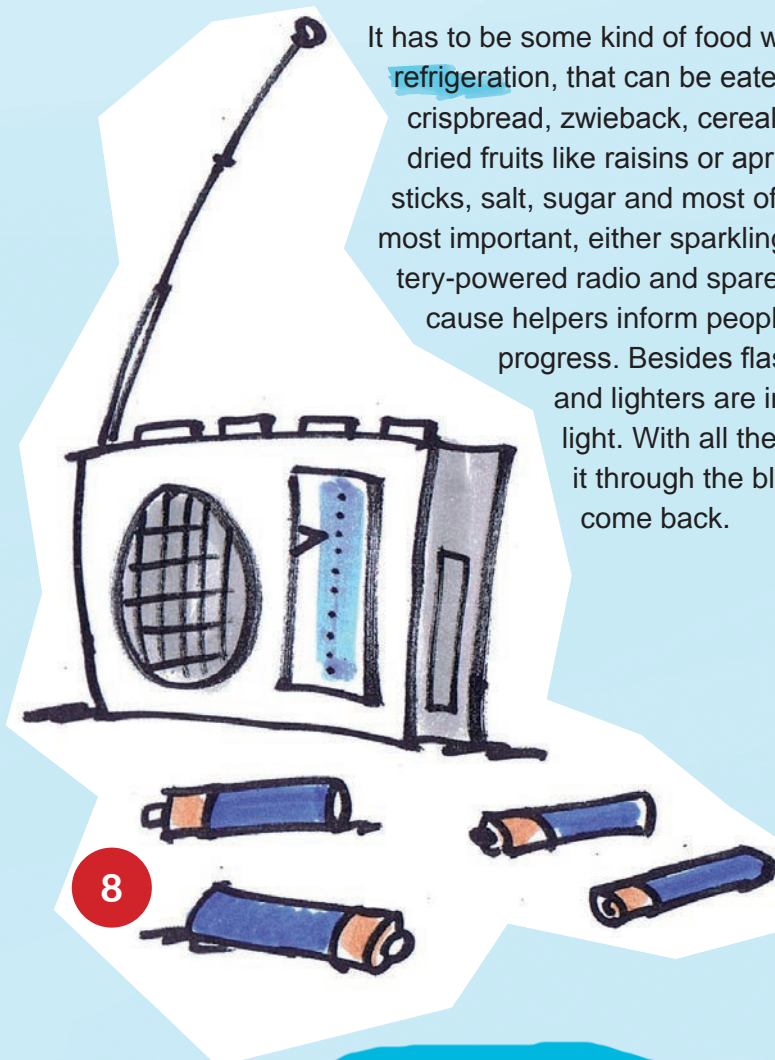


## Flocke knows ...

If you have pets, make sure that they have enough to drink and to eat in a case of emergency. Dried food works out well for your sweet-heart.



It has to be some kind of food with a very long shelf life without any refrigeration, that can be eaten uncooked. For example, there are crispbread, zwieback, cereal, canned vegetables, canned or dried fruits like raisins or apricots, canned meat, cookies, pretzel sticks, salt, sugar and most of all many, many drinks. Water is most important, either sparkling or still mineral water. A battery-powered radio and spare batteries are also necessary because helpers inform people in distress over the radio about the progress. Besides flashlights, candles as well as matches and lighters are important, so you at least have a light. With all these supplies it will be easier to make it through the blackout, and wait for the power to come back.

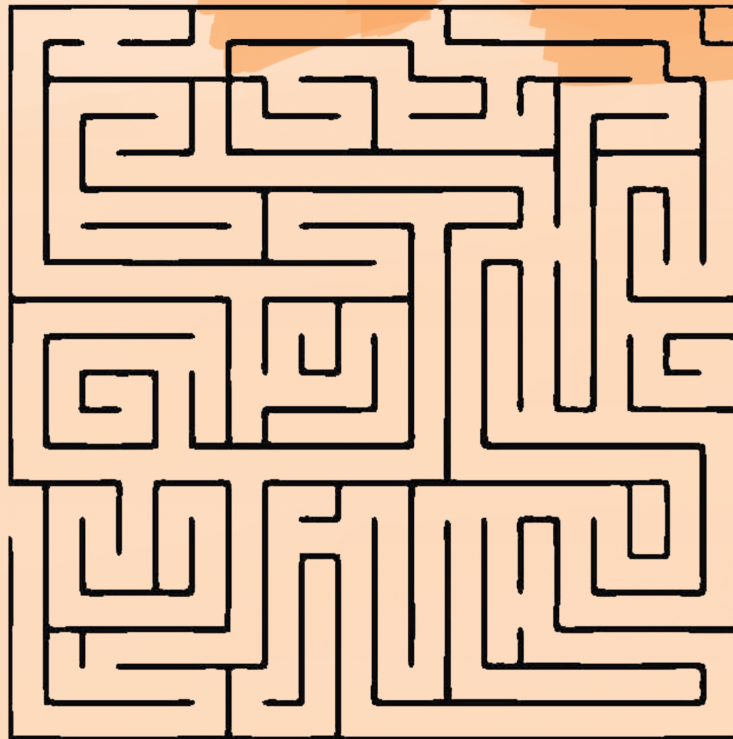




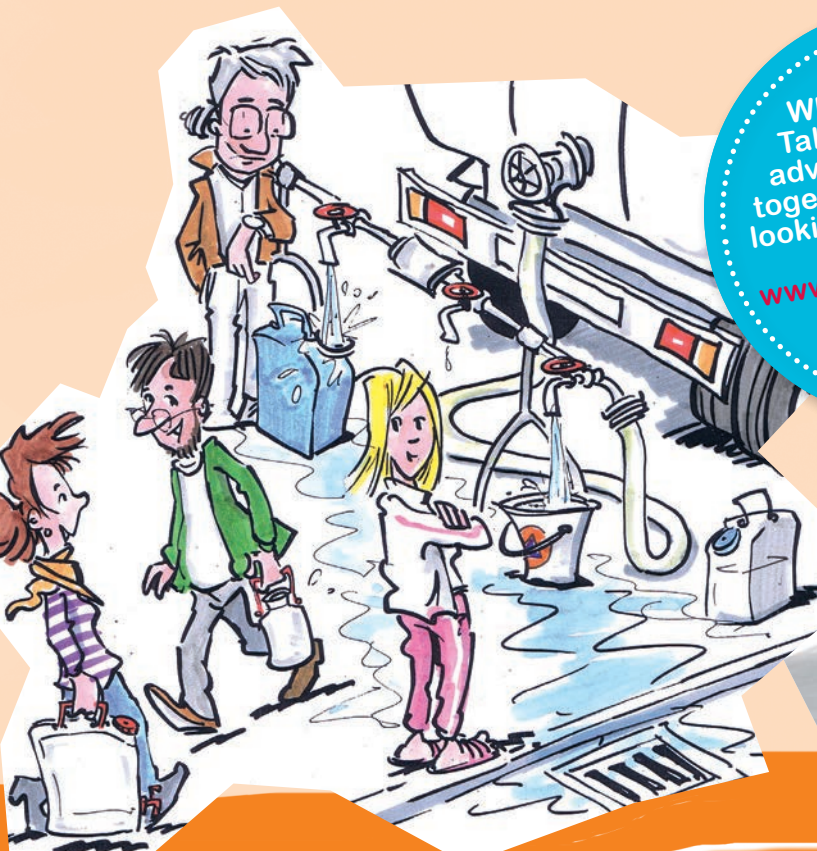


# Maze

There's a blackout and at the same time there's no more running water. Max got water from a tank car for Flocke. Now he wants to take the water dish to Flocke. Find the right way!



Where's Max?  
Take part in this  
adventurous seek  
together with Flocke  
looking for his master  
Max on:  
[www.max-und-flocke-helferland.de](http://www.max-und-flocke-helferland.de)





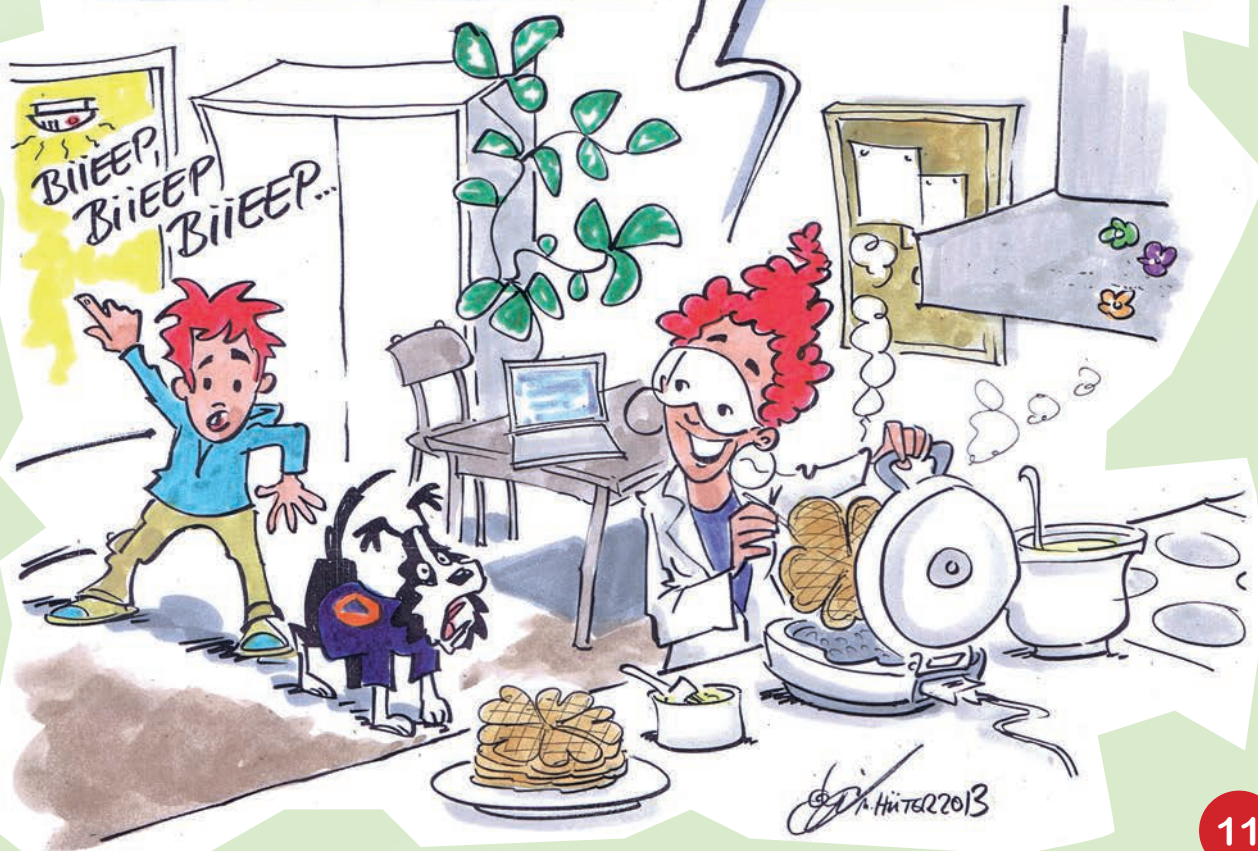
# A satellite warns of dangers

Max is sitting in his room and does some arts and craft. He arranges a photo album for his dad, who's birthday is coming up soon. Max is totally bound up in his work. Highly concentrated he handles glue, scissors and pen. A nice sentence is supposed to go with every picture, for his dad to enjoy. "Me and Dad fishing", "Dad teaching me how to ride a bicycle", "Dad at show-and-tell-day at preschool" are some of the sentences Max writes underneath the pictures. Deep in thought Max suddenly startles. All at once his smoke alarm runs like mad. Max wrinkles his nose **curiously and snuffles** the air. Strange, he thinks, I can't smell any smoke. Is the smoke alarm broken, maybe? Did a fire break out downstairs without me noticing it? Even Flocke with his good sense of smell doesn't notice anything.



In worry both of them run as quick as light-ning into the kitchen, where his mom is bak-ing waffles. Max is all out of breath. "What happened? Why does the smoke alarm make strange noises? Is there a fire in our house? His mother grins and offers Max a fresh waffle and a hot chocolate. "Calm down my son, everything is all right. This is just a practice alarm", she says. "A practice alarm? But why does this run through the smoke alarm? Aren't we supposed to hear the sirens?"

The mother sits down beside Max and explains to him, what's behind these jarring noises of his smoke alarm. "Our country created a system, which warns people in Germany via satellite about disasters or attacks. In former times sirens were used for that. The new system doesn't work the same way **as the sirens did – it works by broadcasting** the warnings over the radio or TV stations. That way people can also be instructed what to do and how to behave." Max is wide-eyed. "But what does my smoke alarm have to do with this?" His mother keeps pouring batter onto the waffle iron and explains everything to Max. "It's not enough to only warn people about disasters via satellite. The radio has to be turned on, otherwise people won't be able to hear the





warnings.” Max scatters powdered sugar over his waffle, takes a bite out of it and offers a bite to Flocke. “Is this why the smoke alarm beeped?” “Exactly” his Mom says, “ the warning system has been enhanced.

In the future also radio alarm clocks, smoke alarms and maybe even car horns are supposed to be connected to it and warn of storms and floods.” That’s pretty clever, Max thinks, because that way everybody is notified when there’s a threat somewhere. Max feels relieved and takes two more waffles – one for himself and one for Flocke – and goes back to his room to finish the photo album for his dad.

## Quiz

In case of a disaster the population in Germany is warned by a centralized system. How does this happen?



through smoke signals



via satellite, which for example makes smoke alarms beep



by the mailman



# The emergency backpack

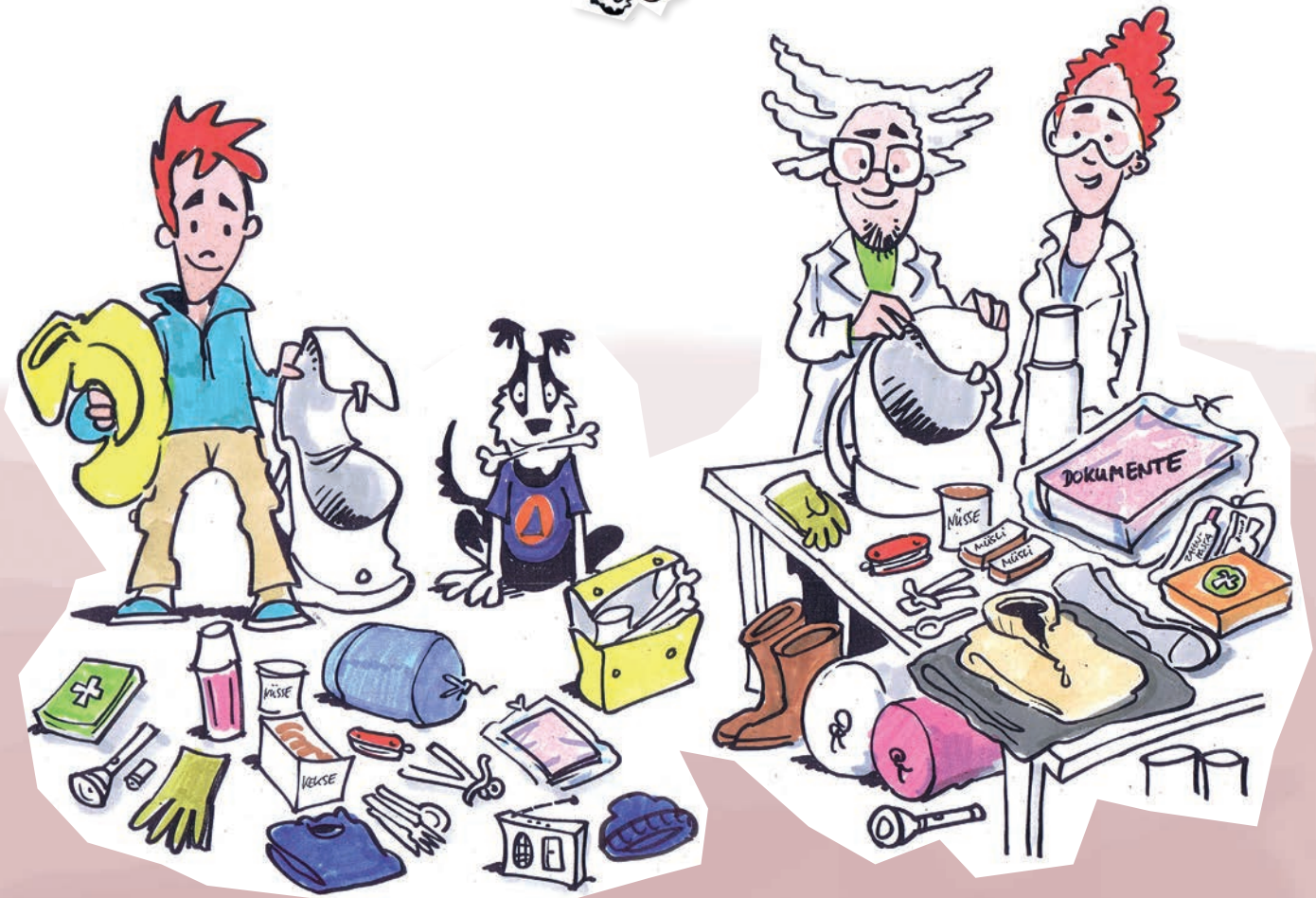
A fire, a broken gas pipe or the discovery of an old aerial bomb - in some cases you have to leave the house quickly and there's no time left to save your favorite t-shirt, the beloved books, the scrapbook, the cuddly teddy bear or your school supplies. Every-one's glad as long as nobody gets hurt. Of course it's sad to lose things like your favorite toy to a fire. But actually, grown-ups are right when they say that those things can be bought new and replaced.



If the family is well prepared and has taken out an insurance, they will receive money for new clothing, furniture and toys. Then again, there are things that can't be replaced or bought new. These include papers and documents which prove who you are, where you were born, when and where you got married, which insurances you have, that verify that you are the renter of the apartment, document for how long you have worked and where, but also your school reports and much more. Also it includes several personal mementos like family pictures. With all the money in the world you can't get these things back. Therefore it's important to be prepared for situations that can come along very suddenly and destroy everything. So when you are called to

**leave the house immediately, the best solution might be to just grab one single suitcase or backpack, knowing that everything you will need to get by until you can return to your apartment is in it.**





### But what belongs in such a piece of emergency luggage?

Your very personal emergency luggage includes robust, warm clothing, underwear, stockings and shoes, soap and a tooth brush, a warm blanket or a sleeping bag, a flashlight with batteries, a piece of headgear, dishware and cutlery, and also some food and drink. Also important is a battery-powered radio with spare batteries. That way you can receive current information, because helpers often advise people on what to do over the radio. If you are on regular medication, of course it belongs into your emergency luggage as well. The best thing to do is to put all these things into a backpack. So you have both hands free, while carrying it. Your parents should have packed the same things as you, but also additional food and drink for two days, spare batteries, a can opener, a pocketknife, first aid equipment and the most important documents of the whole family. These have to be wrapped in waterproof material, so humidity doesn't affect the papers. Copies of these documents can of course be given to friends and relatives, which is even safer. Once the packing is done, put the backpack in a place



**Flocke knows ....**  
Also a good idea is an emergency capsule. You can attach this to your key for example. On a little piece of paper in the capsule your name, your address and the most important telephone numbers are written down. If something happens to you, helpers may find your parents faster.

where everyone in your family can quickly find it and conveniently grab it if necessary. When the worst-case scenario happens, don't forget your pet while leaving.

# Backpack

Which of these items should be part of your emergency backpack?  
You may colour them if you want to.





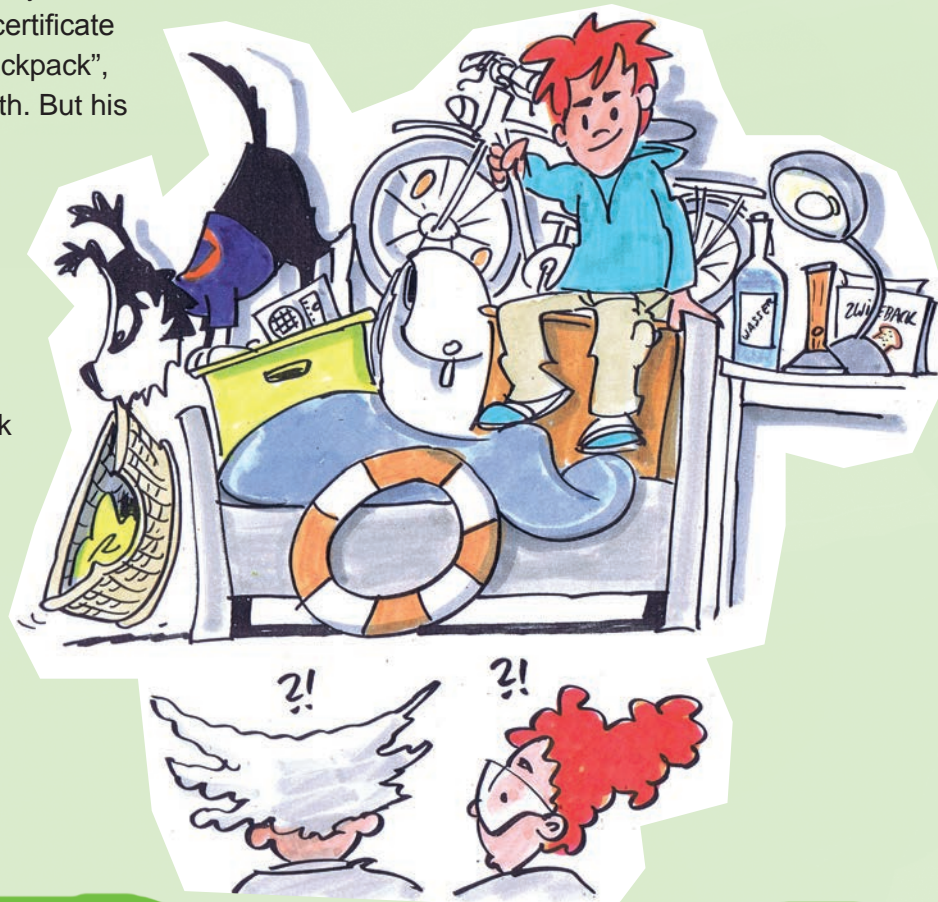
# Max provides for an emergency

Just like you, Max has now dealt comprehensively with the topic emergency. He has read a lot, looked at pictures and thought about what he has learned for a long time.

What would he do if there were a blackout? What if there were a severe flood not only in Wasserstein but at his place, too? And has he packed his emergency backpack yet?

Max runs to the door, hauls his bike, a radio, batteries, a box of water, canned vegetables, a can opener, candles, Flocke's feeding dish and food and much more into his room. His father and mother curiously watch the spectacle. "What exactly are you doing there?", they ask inquisitively.

"I provide for an emergency. I just have to make copies of my birth certificate and pack my emergency backpack", Max answers all out of breath. But his parents can comfort him, because they have already provided for the worst case scenario. "Let's have a look together, if we didn't miss anything", his mom suggests with a friendly smile and together they walk up the stairs.







# To vouch for others

Max is going to remember this day for a long time. A new schoolmate joins the class. His name is Gboli. An uncommon name, Max thinks and so during recess, he nosily asks Gboli, where he is from exactly. "From Sierra Leone", Gboli answers. Max marvels. Never before has he met someone from Sierra Leone. Gboli explains to Max, that he and his parents, grandparents and siblings have been living in Germany for only a short time now, and that he feels very lucky that his seatmate is someone as nice as Max.



After recess there is an English lesson with Ms. Summer. Ms. Summer asks Gboli to read out a text about ambulance men. Many words in the text are new for Gboli and it is difficult for him to pronounce them. Mean Benny from the last row and other classmates start to giggle at Gboli reading some words wrong. All at once Gboli goes quiet and tears are rolling down his cheeks. He runs out, sobbing, because the other kids laugh at him.

Ms. Summer is outraged by the behavior of Benny and the other kids, and writes a note into the class register. Max thinks about how he would feel if he was new in a class in Sierra Leone. Probably he could not read out a single word. He feels sorry for Gboli and puts his arm around his shoulder. "Don't mind mean Benny", Max says, "it is quite clear, that you need to practice your reading. Everything is new to you. I'm going to help you!" "Really?", Gboli asks with tearstained eyes. "For sure" Max shouts while handing Gboli a tissue.

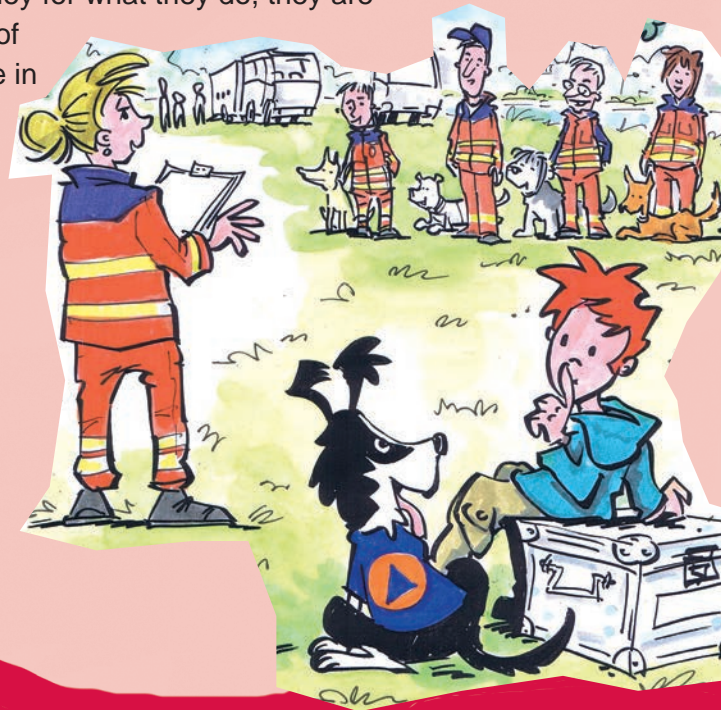


Over the next couple of weeks Max and Gboli practice reading a lot. Gboli makes progress very quickly and after one month he already reads the text on ambulance men as fluently as the other kids. Ms. Summer is very impressed by Gboli's progress and praises Max for his help. "Your commitment is commendable. To stand up for others and helping one another is very important, this is the only way a community can work out.

The other children even apologize for having giggled at Gboli in the beginning. Only mean Berny is picking his nose and looking grumpy, because meanwhile Gboli knows how to read out a lot better than he does.

Max and Gboli become close friends. They often meet after school to play and do great things together. **And there is someone** who is always around: Flocke, the dog.

One day, while it is pouring outside, Max, Gboli and Flocke are sitting in Max' room, drawing. Looking for a red crayon, the text about the ambulance men falls into Gboli's hands. "Hey Max", Gboli says, why don't we become ambulance men? If we did, we could help others just like you helped me back then." Max likes the idea very much and dog Flocke barks to show that he approves, too. The next day the two boys ask Ms. Summer how to become ambulance men. Ms. Summer explains to Max and Gboli that they could start by becoming qualified school medics. Both are hooked on this idea. **They decide to become school medics**, to stand by their classmates in a case of emergency. Ms. Summer continues to explain that it's possible to help others not only in school. As a so-called volunteer helper you can support the volunteer fire department, rescue service, technical emergency service or the German lifeguard association. Even though volunteer helpers don't earn any money for what they do, they are the **"heroes of everyday life"** for others, kind of like the way Max and Gboli help other people in risky situations. But also animals like Flocke, the dog, could become such heroes. After a special training they are called "rescue dogs".





### Quiz solutions

Quiz page 5: answer 2, quiz page 12: answer 2; (backpack page 15: batteries, can opener, first aid kit, food, waterbottle, flashlight, radio, ID card, sleeping bag, clothing.

**Offers for teachers, parents and educators of aid agencies at:**  
**[www.max-und-flocke-helferland.de](http://www.max-und-flocke-helferland.de):**

We offer worksheets for school classes for different subjects and project weeks and youth work in aid agencies, but also for activity with children at home. Matching with every worksheet there is a methodical-didactical comment about the possibilities of using these worksheets.

The following worksheets are available:

- lightening quick – module for the correct behavior at thunderstorms
- point of honor – module for volunteering
- ardor – module for fire safety education
- helping – module for correct behavior in case of emergency
- helpful – social cooperation in community

These work sheets and lots of other materials can be obtained from us in the required amount of copies.



The European Commission provides funding for the project.

#### Project Partners



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**Yaps**  
Raising  
young people's  
awareness on  
preparedness and  
self protection

## Imprint

This volume was developed by the German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) together with the Austrian Red Cross, the Romanian General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations and the Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, as part of a project funded by the European Union:

### YAPS

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**[www.yaps.online](http://www.yaps.online)**

The project was funded by the European Commission; DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION ECHOSUB/2015/721166/PREP12

Project duration: January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017

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**Version:** 2017

**Printing:** MKL Druck GmbH & Co. KG, Münster, Germany