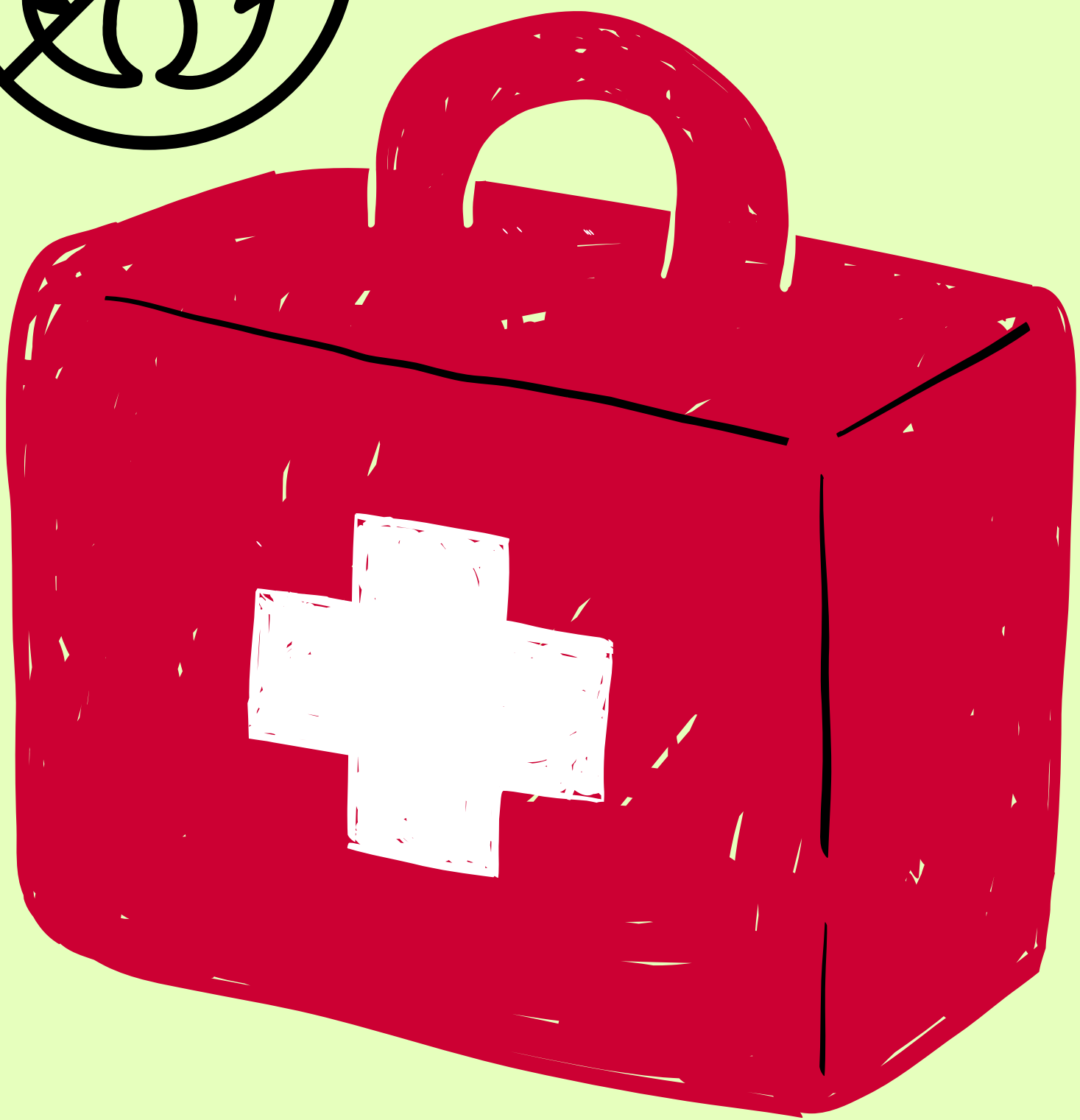


MODULE 6

PREPAREDNESS



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



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Zanasi & Partners
Security Research and Advisory



The project has received project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement no. 101037247



In this module, you will learn how to effectively prepare for wildfires. This includes creating family plans, securing property, and having essential emergency supplies. The module also includes creating defensible space for your home and taking preparedness actions to protect household pets.



CONTENT

Throughout this module, you will learn about:

1. What is emergency preparedness
2. Making a family emergency plan
3. Emergency Evacuation Kit
4. Wildfire clothing kit for citizens
5. How homes burn



6.Home Protection Measures

7.Protect Your Property from
wildfires

8.Strategies for Creating Defensible
Space and Strengthening the
Resilience of Your Home

9.Insurance preparedness

10.Wildfire preparedness for
household pets



WHAT IS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

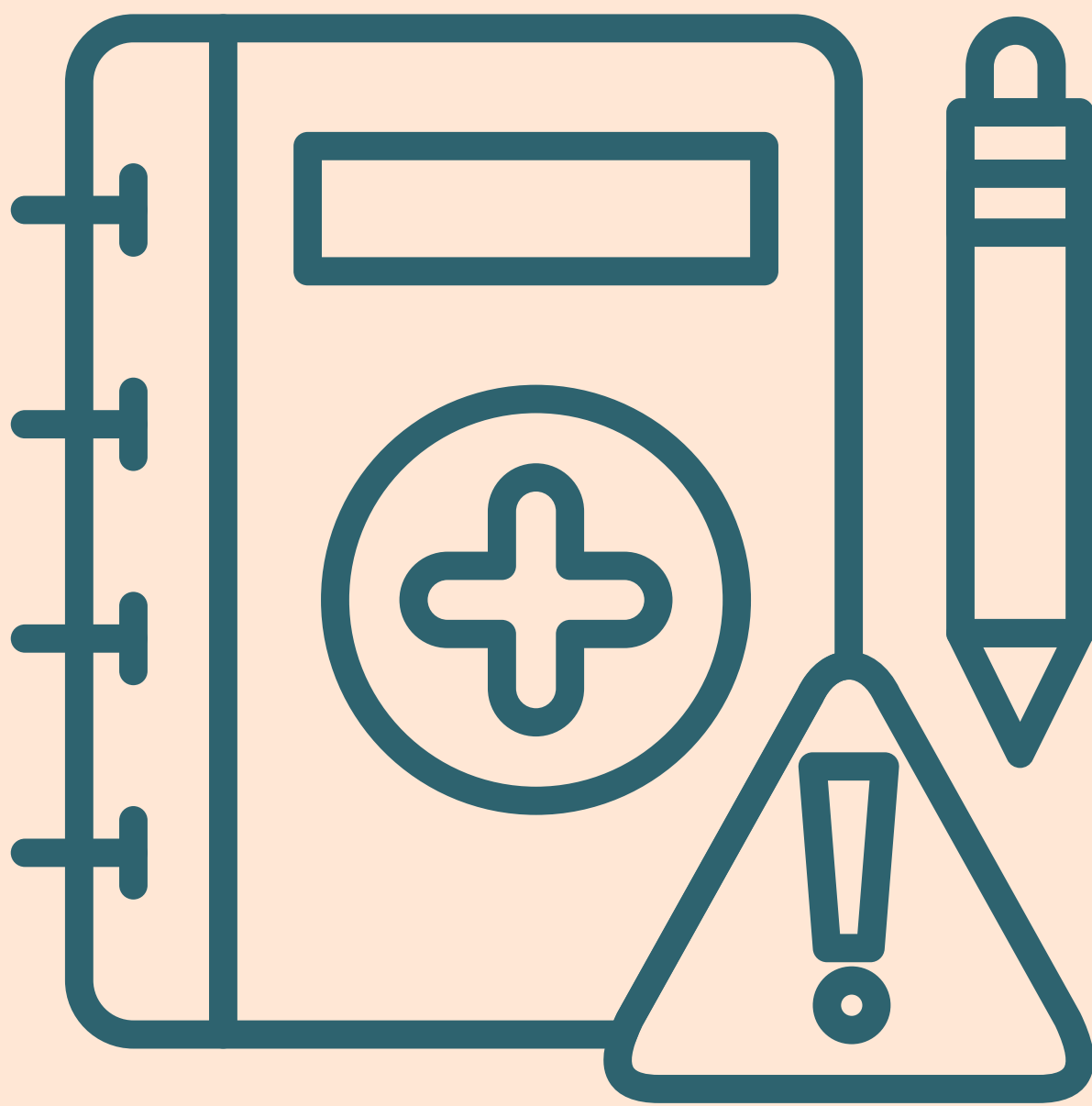


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Emergency preparedness in relation to wildfires refers to the steps and measures taken by individuals, communities, and governments to prepare for, respond to, and recover from wildfires. This involves comprehensive planning, education, and proactive strategies to mitigate the impacts of wildfires and enhance safety.

INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD PREPAREDNESS

Creating a Family Emergency Plan

Each family should have a clear plan that includes evacuation routes, communication strategies, and provisions for pets and livestock.



Emergency Supply Kit

Households should maintain a readily accessible kit that includes water, non-perishable food, first aid supplies, medications, copies of critical documents, clothing, flashlights, batteries, and more.



Home Hardening

Implementing fire-resistant materials in home construction and renovation to protect against fire damage. This includes using fire-resistant roofing, sealing cracks, and using non-combustible siding.



Creating Defensible Space

Clearing vegetation and other flammable materials around the home to reduce fire intensity and spread.



COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

Community Risk Assessments

Identifying and mapping out high-risk areas, potential hazards, and resources within the community.



Public Education Campaigns

Educating the public on wildfire risks, prevention techniques, and emergency procedures through workshops, school programmes, and media campaigns.



Establishing and Testing Communication Systems

Ensuring robust and reliable
methods for emergency
communication, including sirens,
SMS alerts, and local radio.



Evacuation Drills and Planning

Conducting regular community-wide evacuation drills and having clear, well-practiced evacuation plans that account for traffic management and special populations.



Collaboration and Training

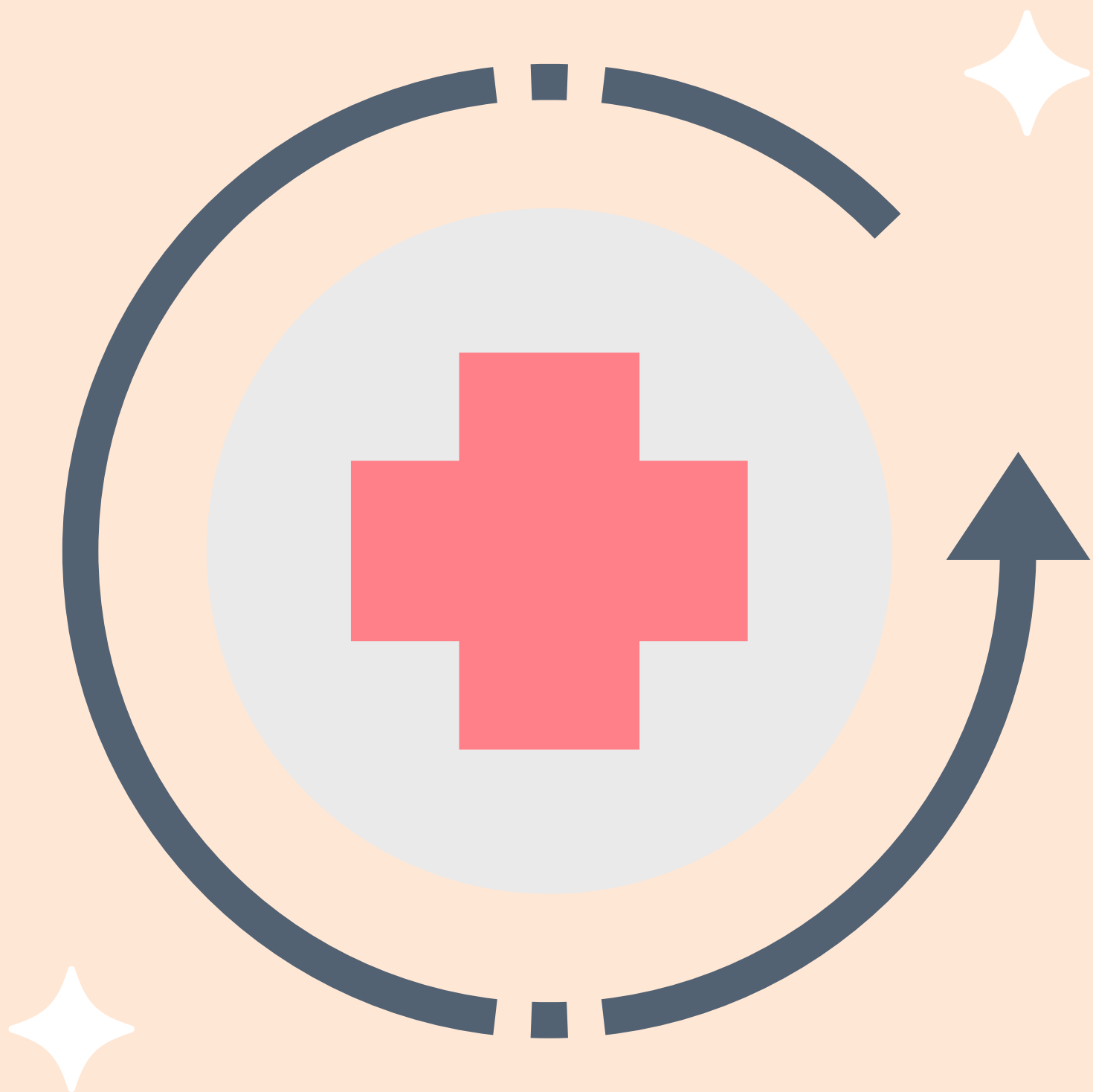
Collaborating with local emergency services, fire departments, forestry services, and other relevant organizations to conduct training and simulation exercises.



RECOVERY AND MITIGATION

Post-Fire Recovery Plans

Planning for quick and effective recovery efforts after a wildfire, including debris removal, rebuilding, and supporting affected individuals.



Mitigation Measures

Implementing strategies to reduce future fire risks and impacts, such as controlled burns, forest management practices, and community redesign.



MAKING A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN



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Equip families with the knowledge and tools to create a comprehensive emergency plan tailored to the specific needs and challenges presented by wildfires.



EMERGENCY KIT

Essentials to include in your family's emergency supply kit:

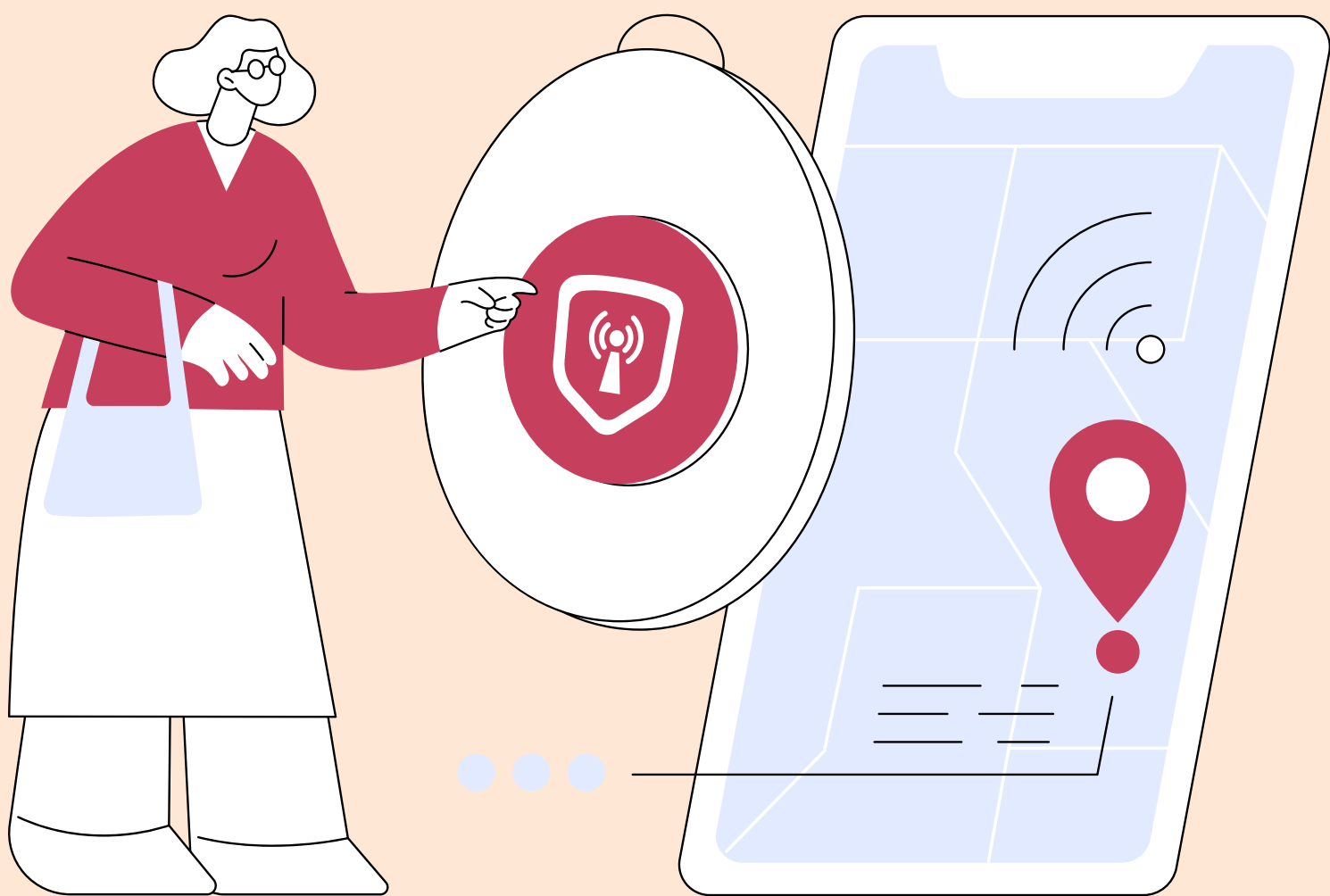
Food, water, medications, critical documents, clothing, first aid supplies, and more.



COMMUNICATION PLAN

How to establish a family communication plan:

- Choosing a family emergency contact person outside the immediate area.



- Discussing how to communicate if mobile phone, internet, or landline fails.

EVACUATION PLAN

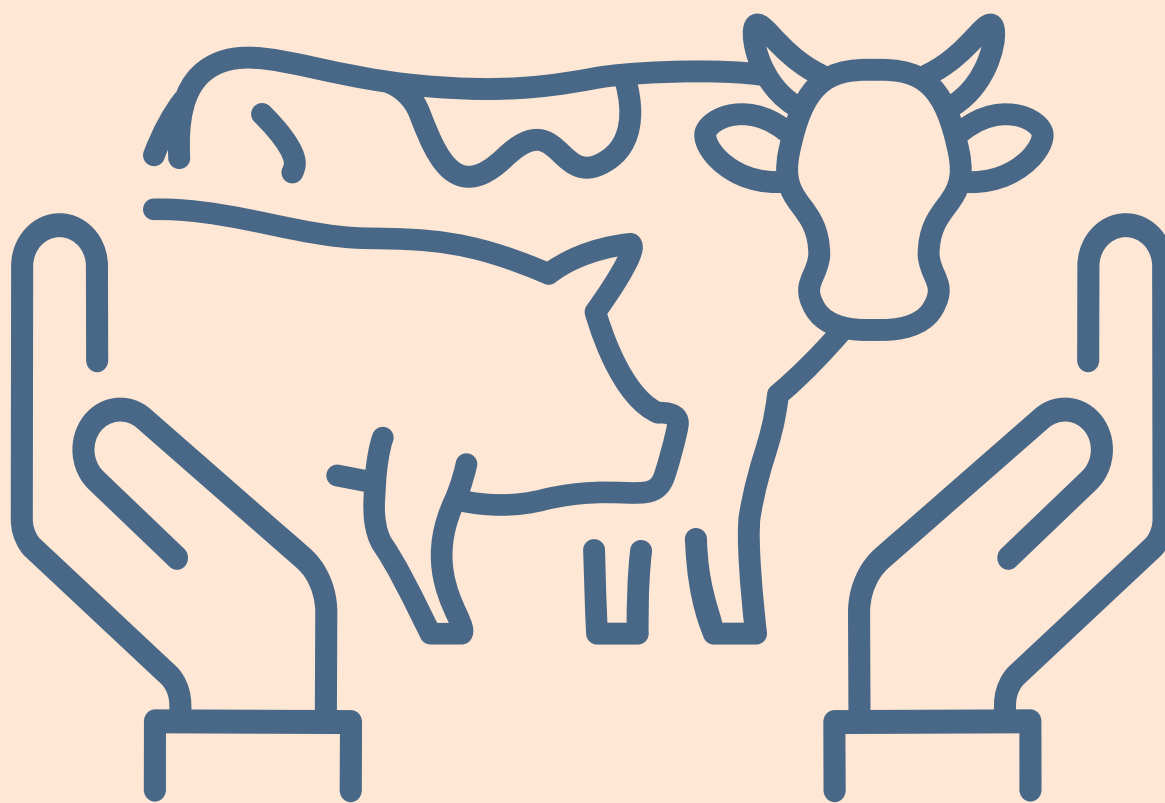
- Steps to create a clear and practiced evacuation route from your home and community.



- Designation of a meeting place outside your neighborhood in case of separation.



- Considerations for pets and livestock.

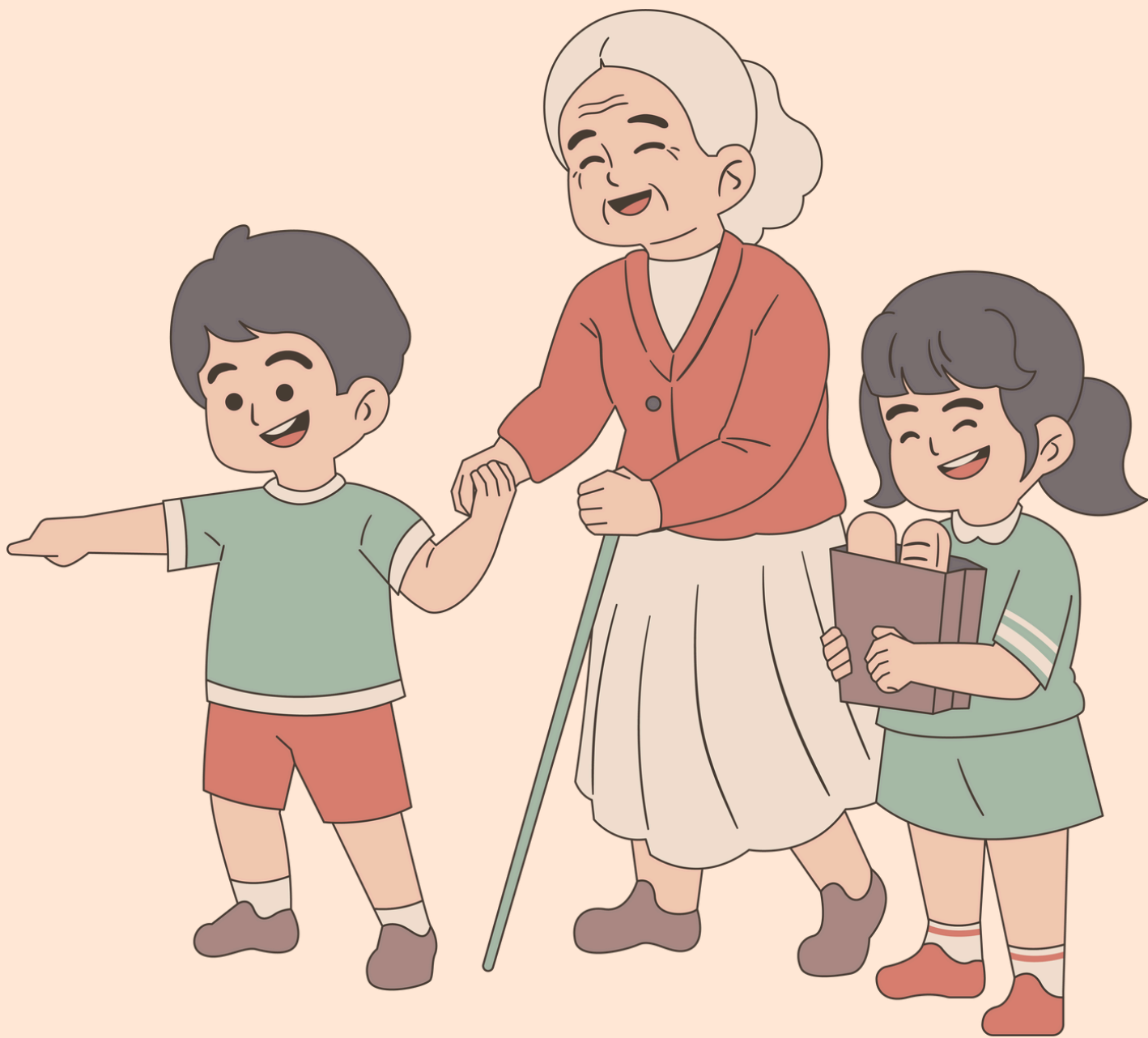


ROLE ASSIGNMENTS

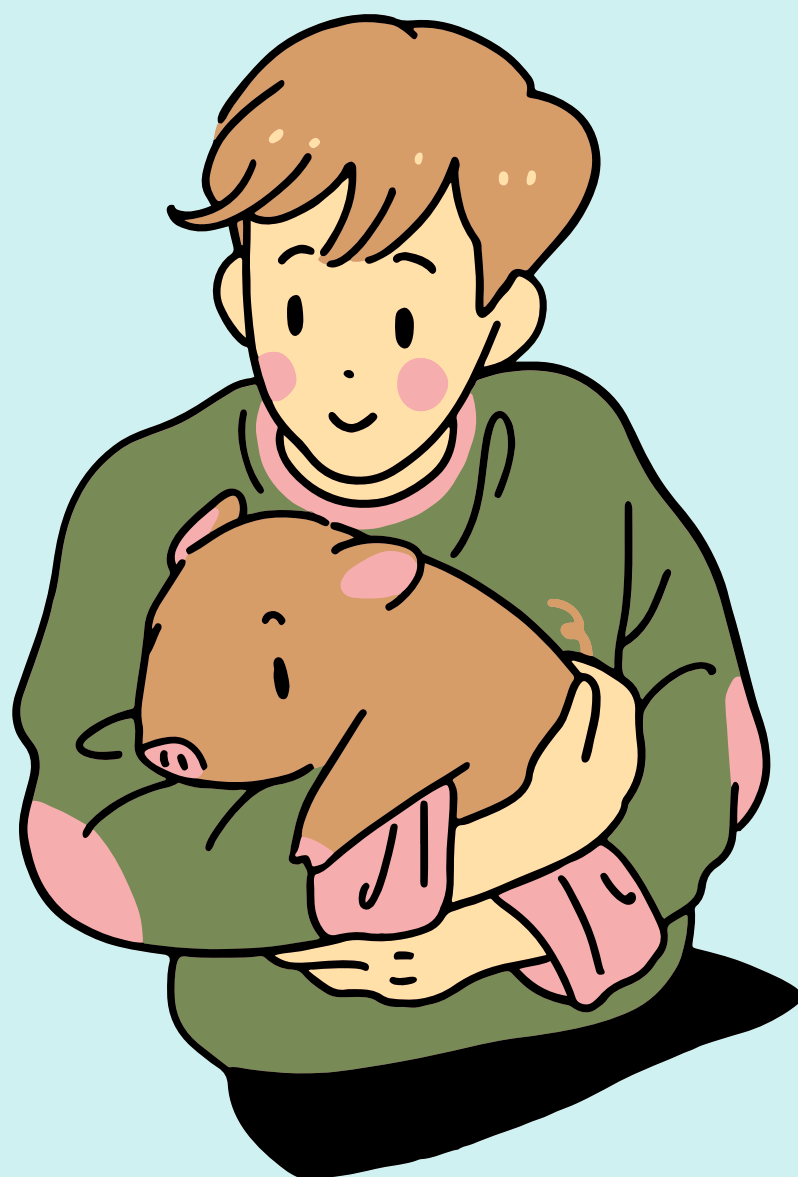
- Assigning specific responsibilities to each family member.



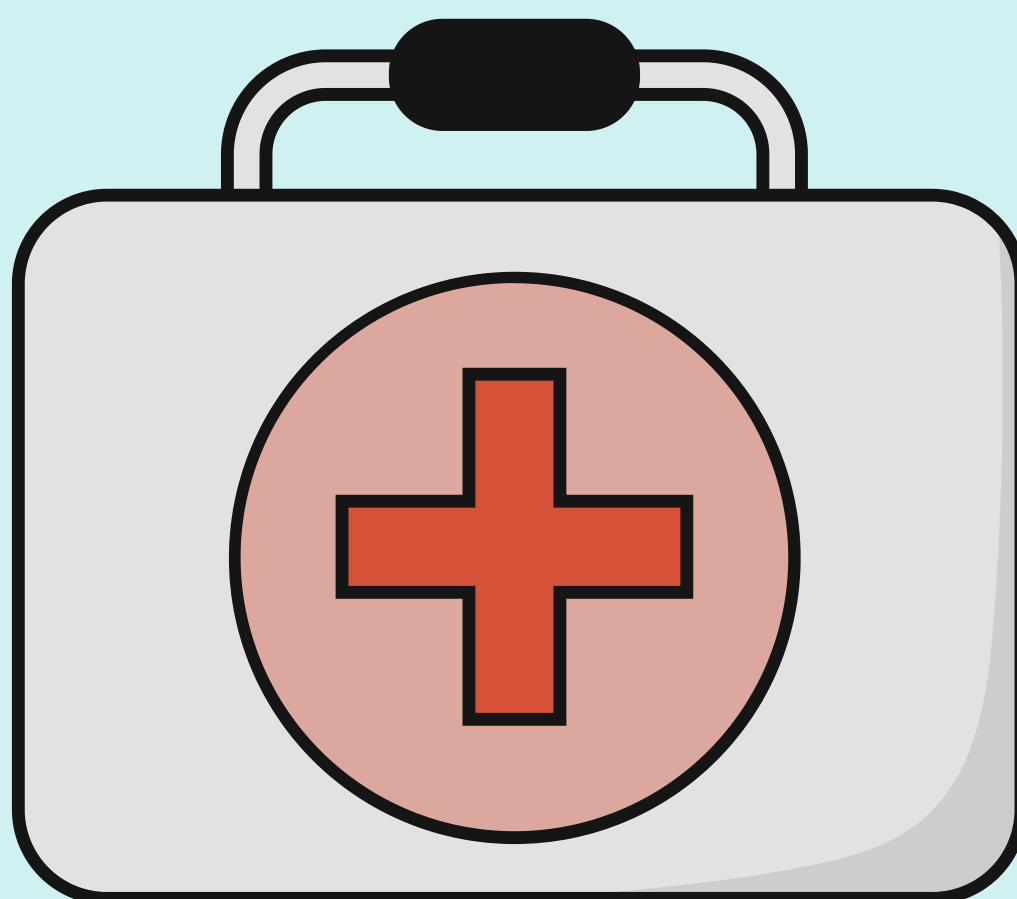
- Plan for special considerations for children, elderly family members, and pets.



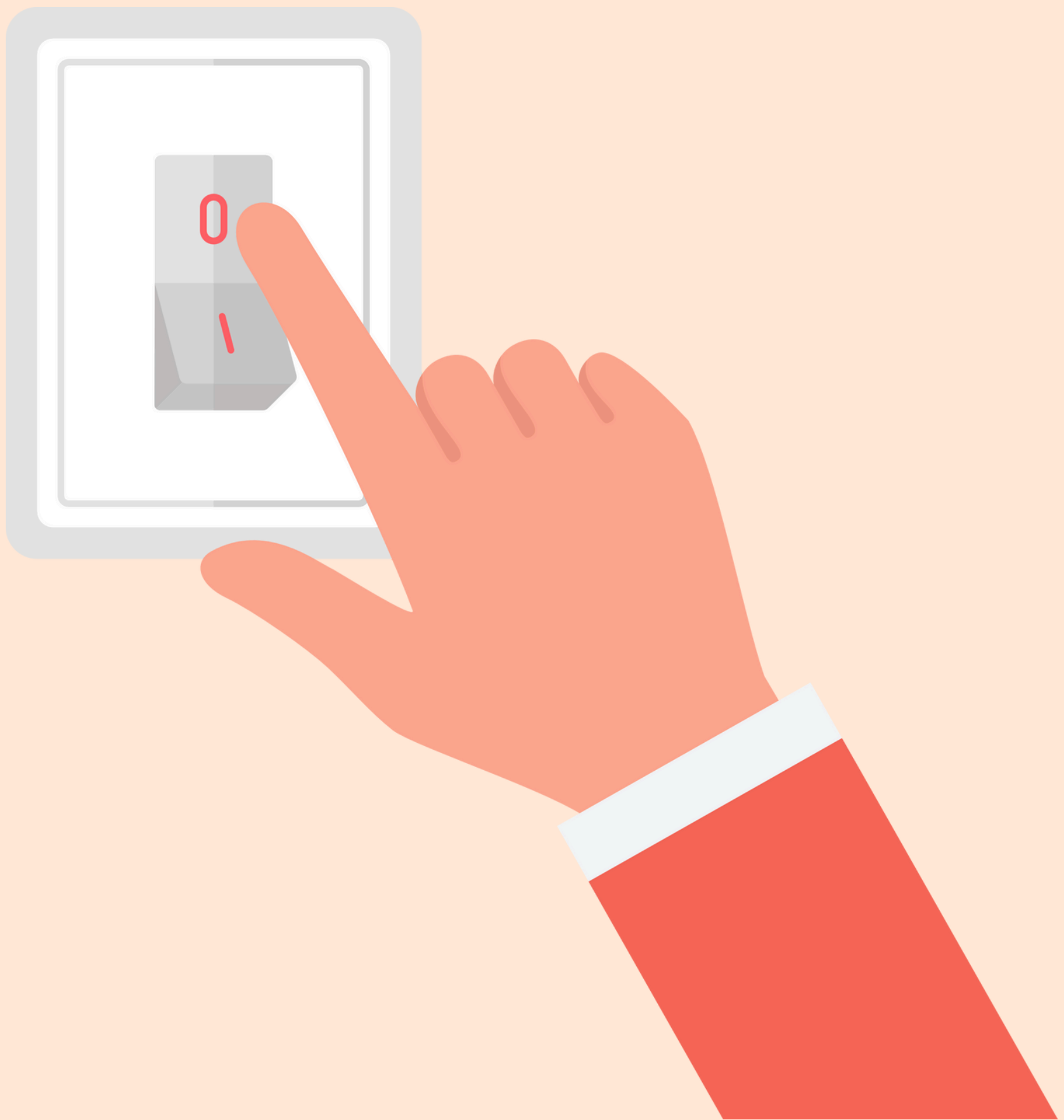
- Who handles pet evacuation.



- Who is responsible for grabbing the emergency kit.



- Who secures home features like turning off gas and water.



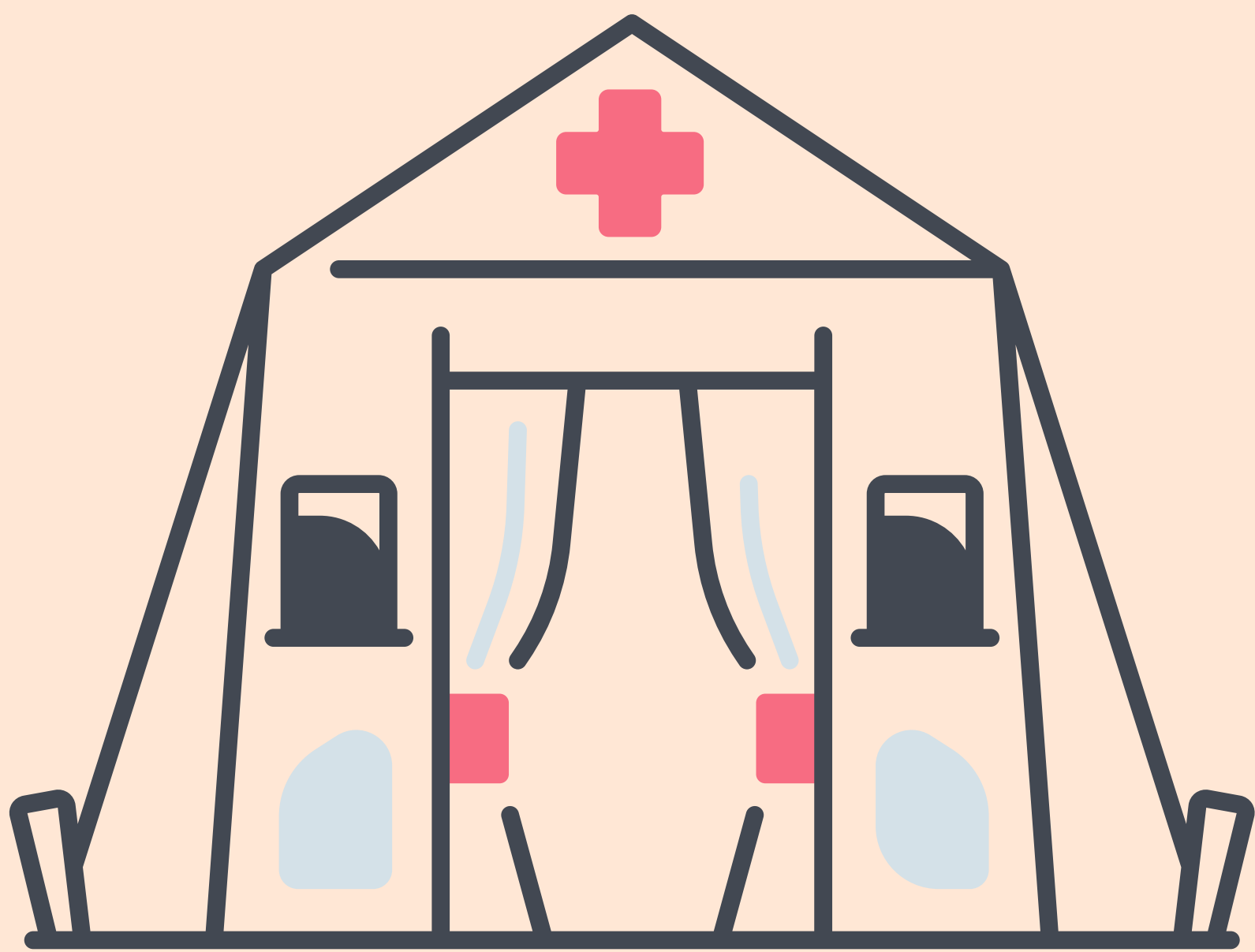
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LOCAL RESOURCES

- How to stay informed through local emergency services, weather stations, and community alerts.



- Listing local emergency shelters, hospitals, and other critical services.



EMERGENCY EVACUATION KIT

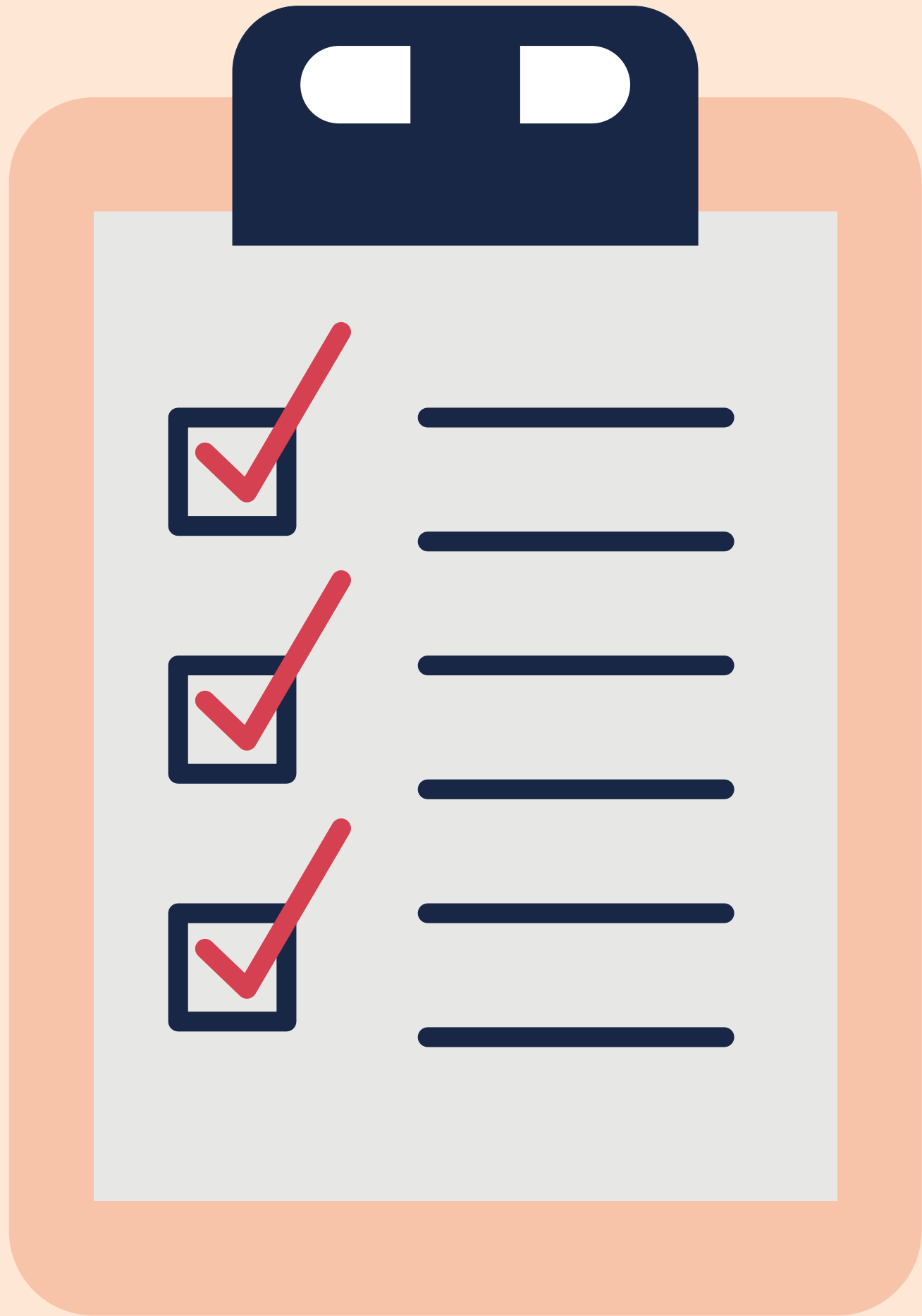


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Create your Emergency Evacuation Kit with all the necessary items to ensure the safety and comfort of your family.

Be proactive and prepare the kit before wildfire season begins, familiarize yourself with its contents.



Ensure everyone is aware of the items in the list and their location.



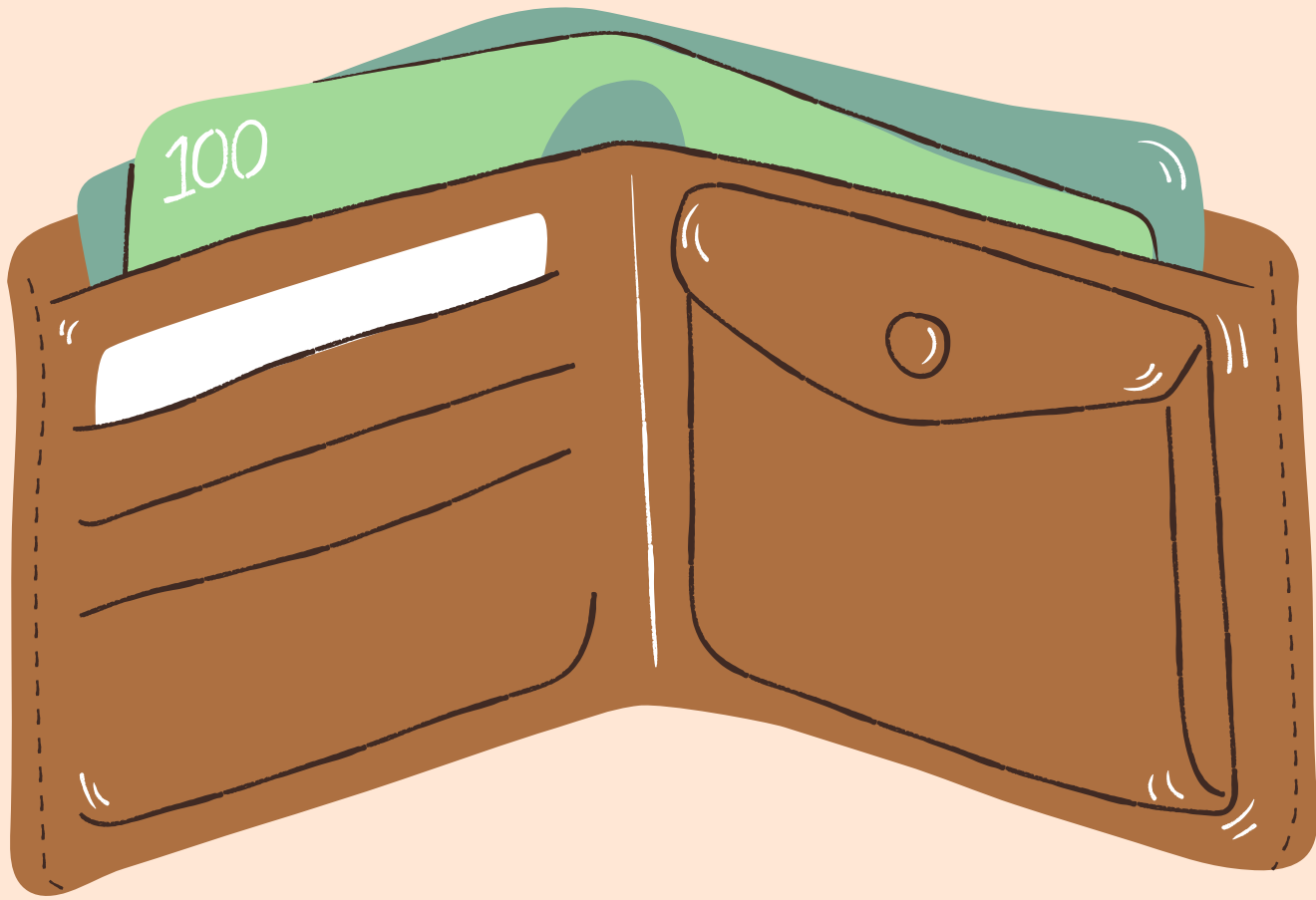
- House and car keys



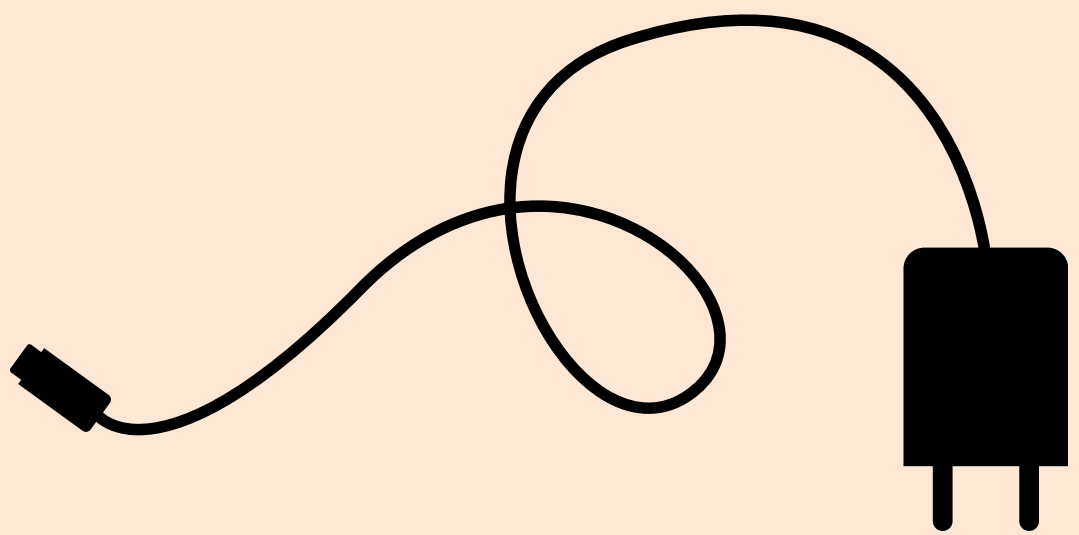
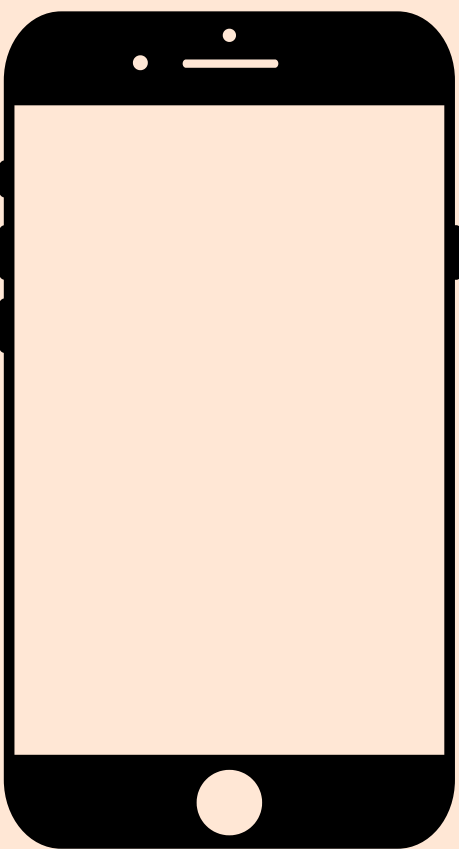
- Essential/legal documents (such as insurance papers and identification)



- **Wallet with cash**



- **Phone and charger**



- Medications and life support equipment



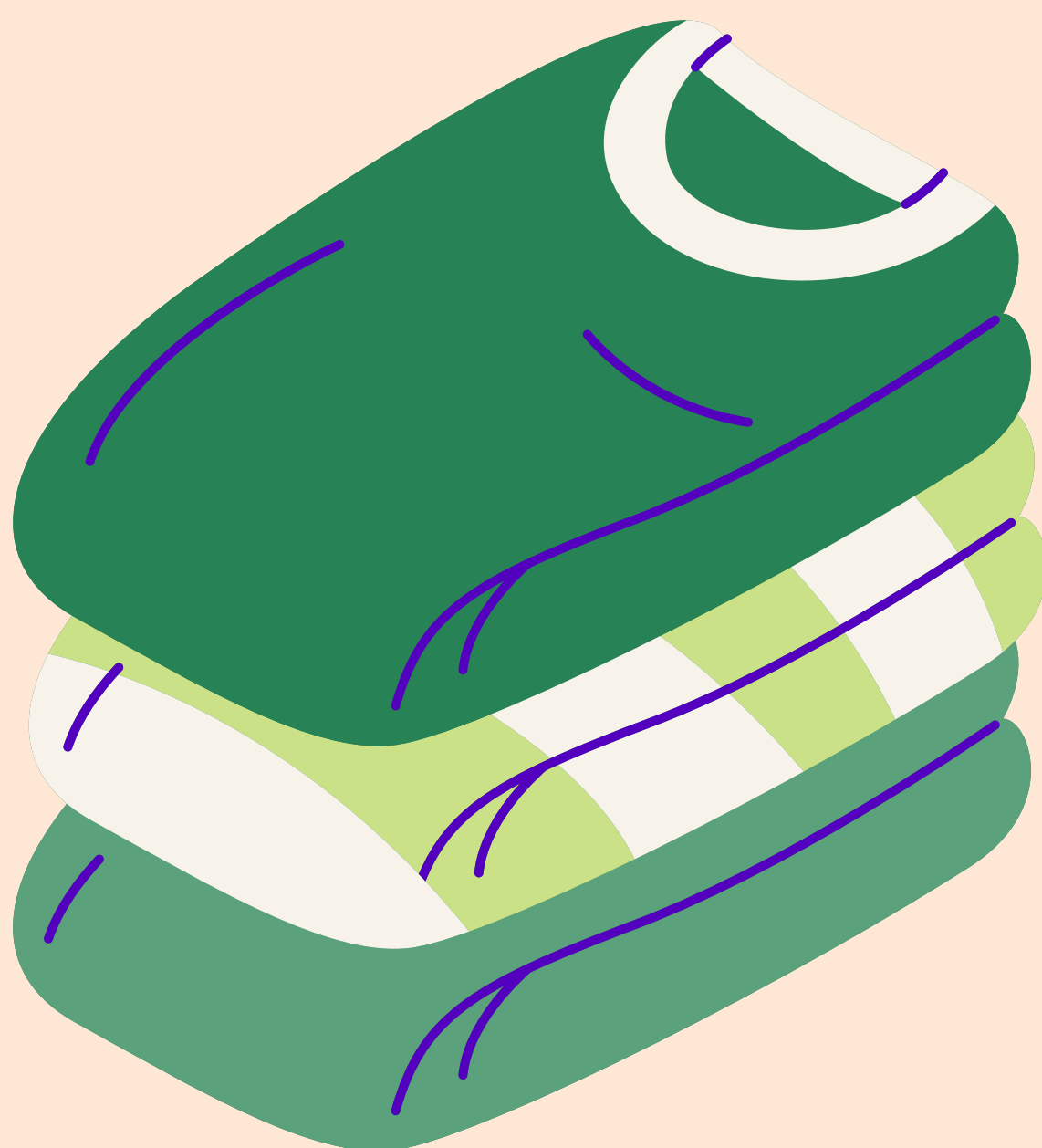
- First aid kit



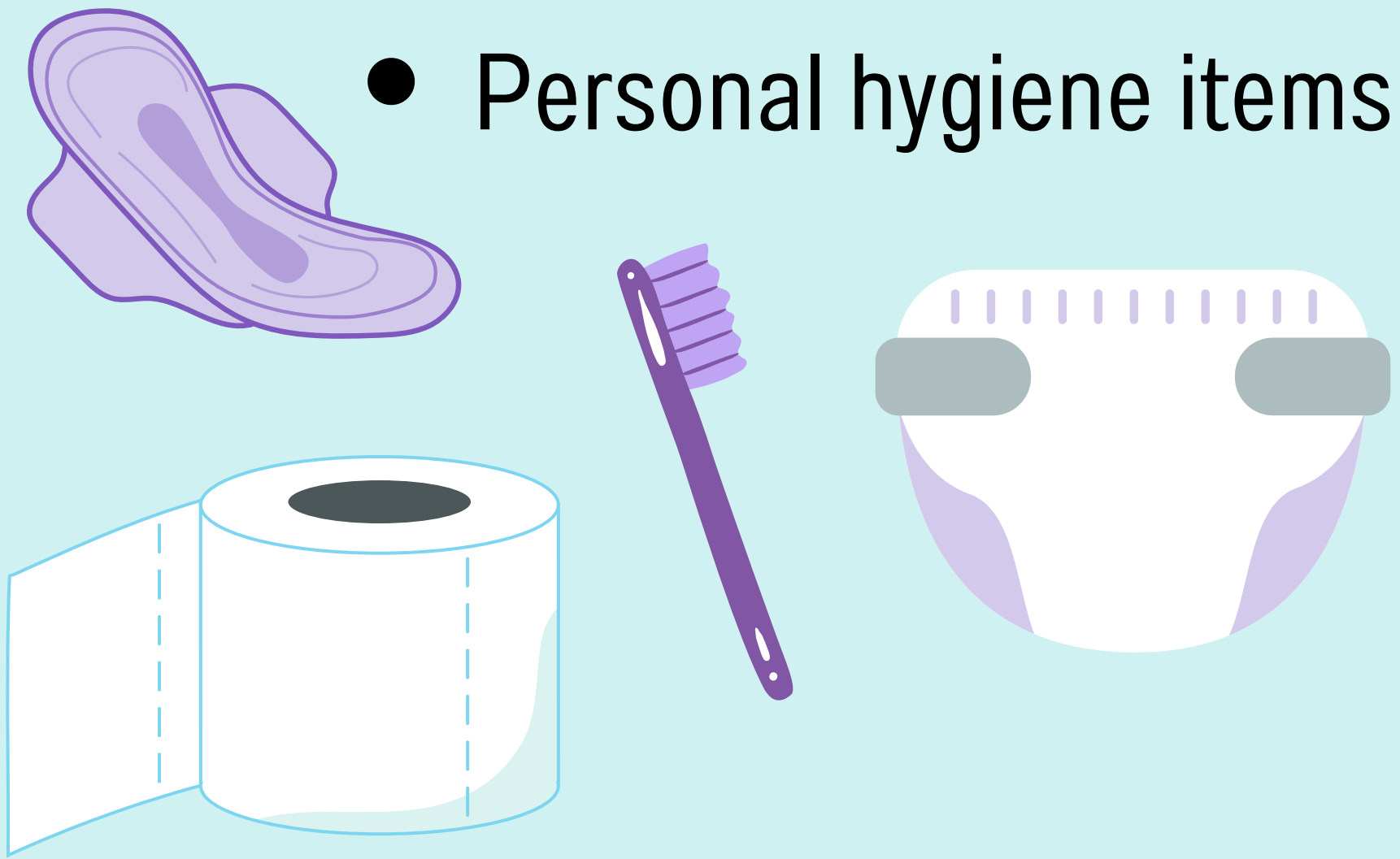
- Laptop and charger



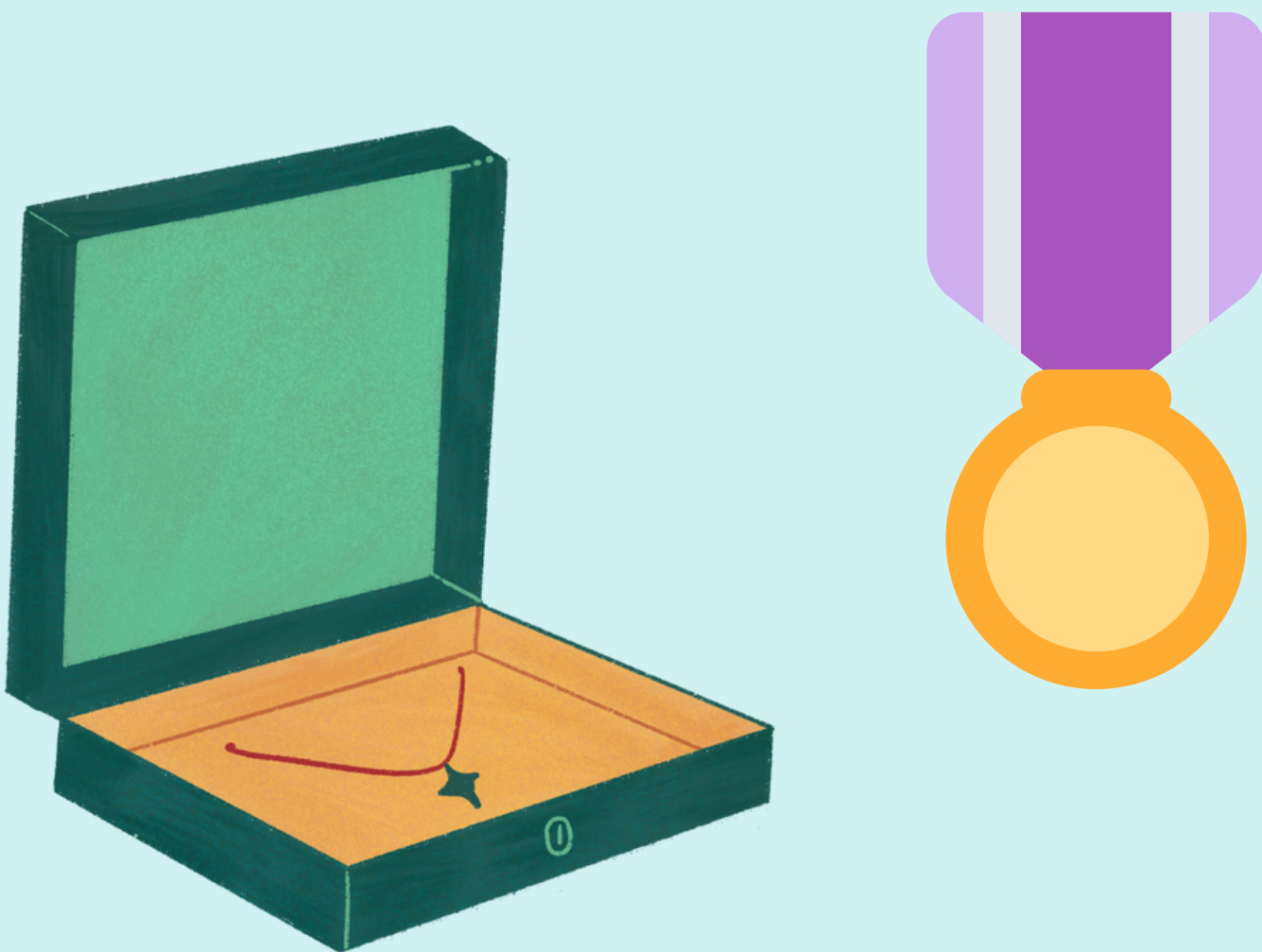
- Clothing for each person



- Personal hygiene items



- Valuables (jewelry, medals)



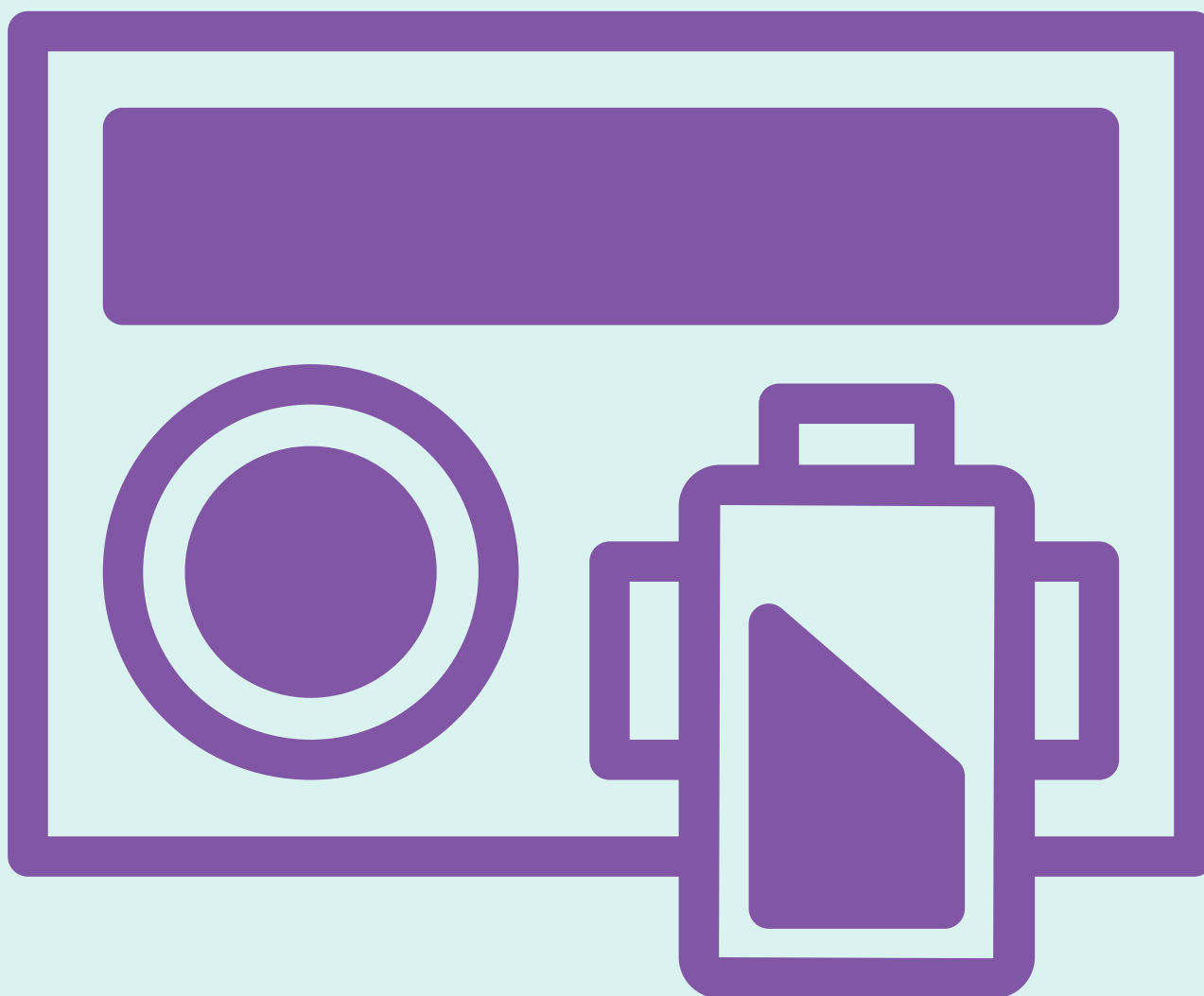
- Drinking water and snacks for the journey



- Pets and their supplies (food, bowl, cage, leash, etc.)



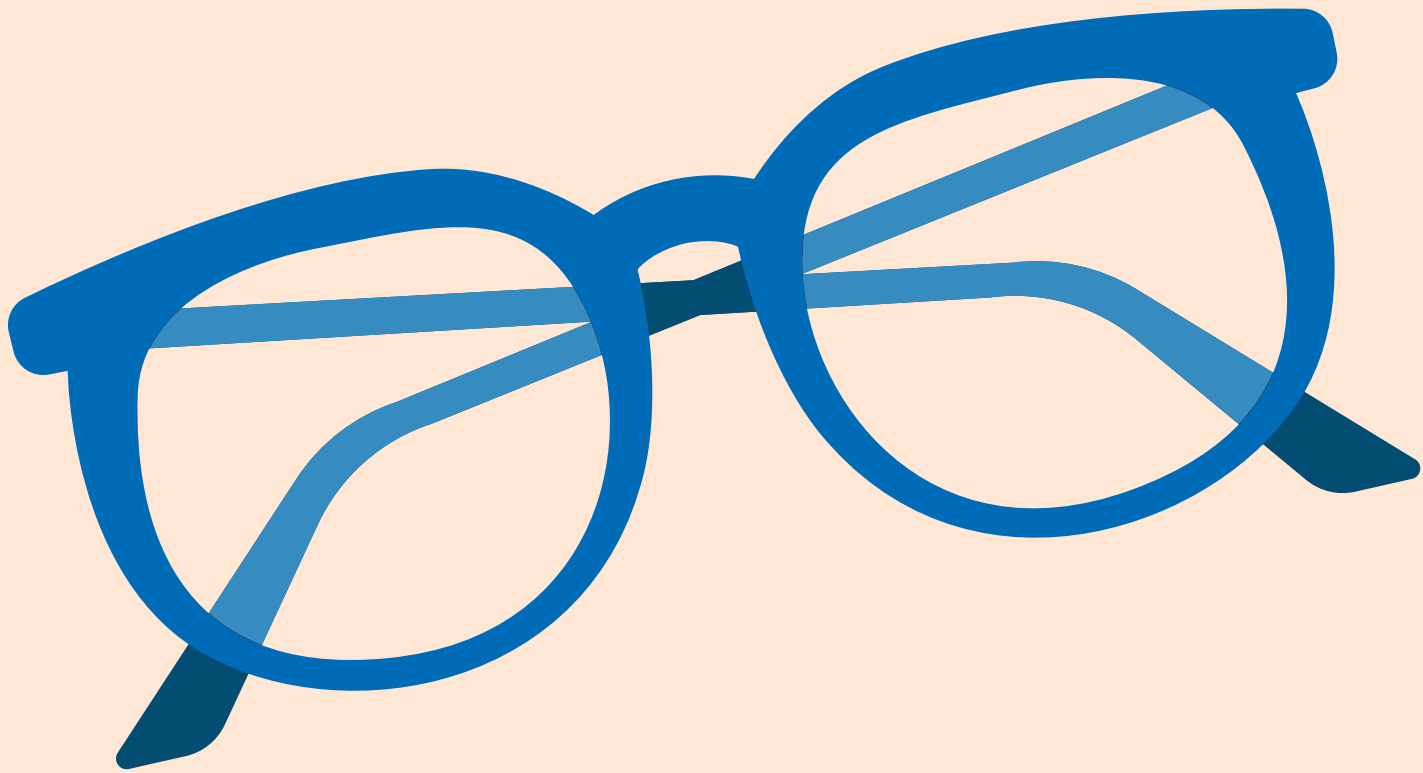
- Battery-powered radio to receive alerts



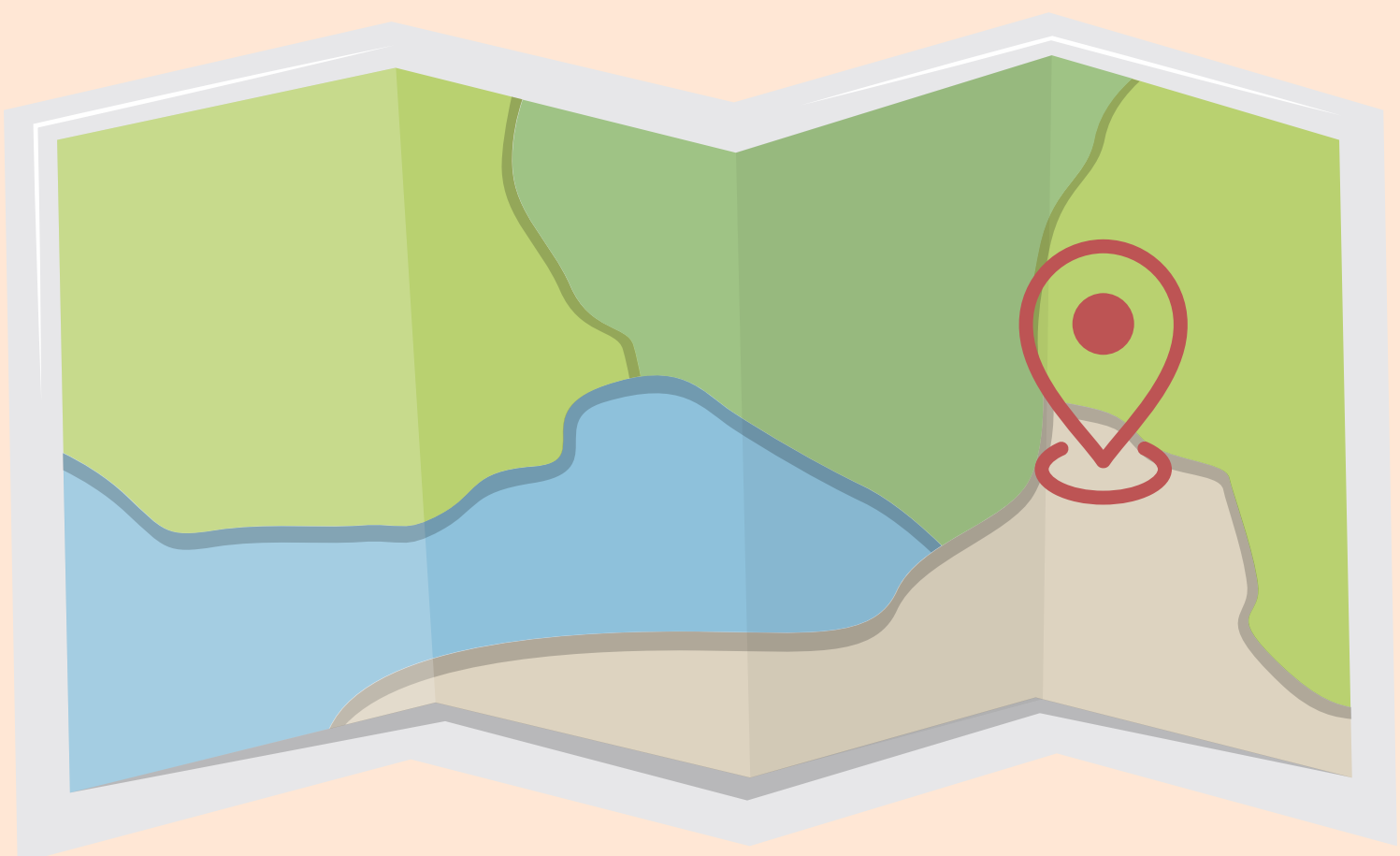
- Battery-powered flashlight with extra batteries



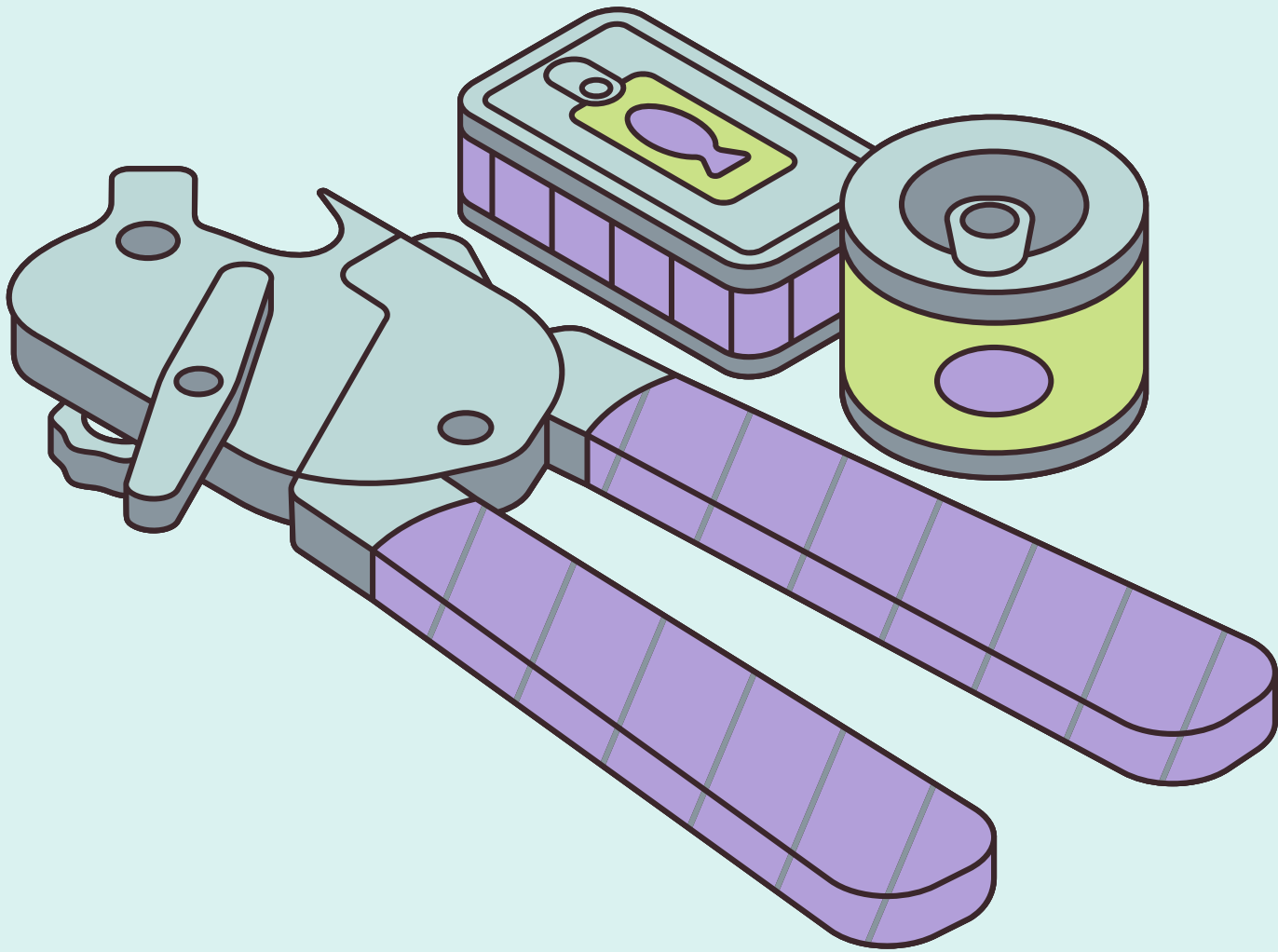
- Personal toiletries and items, such as an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses



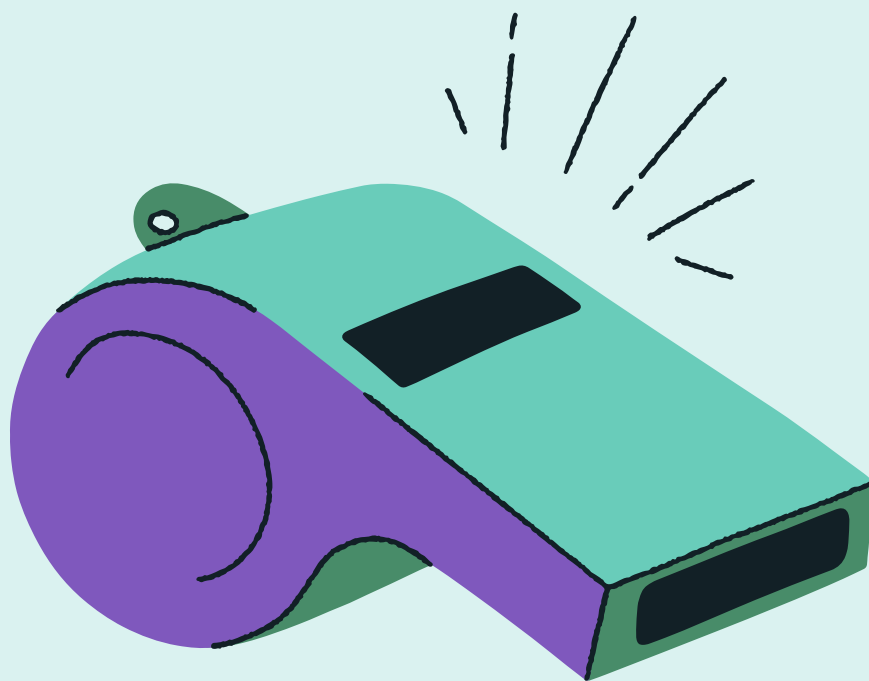
- Local map evacuation routes and with meeting place identified



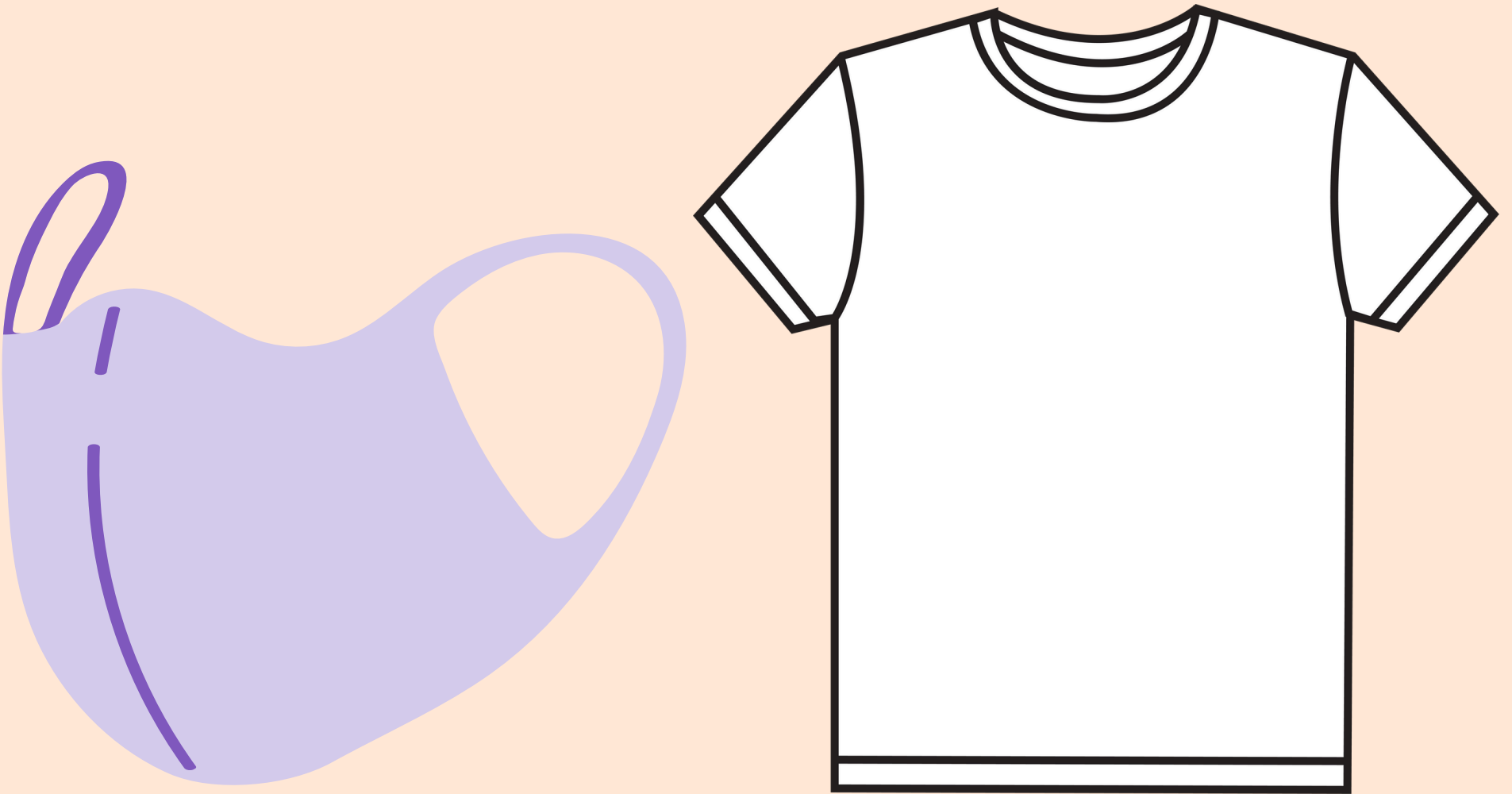
- Non-Perishable food: If including canned foods, you must include a can opener



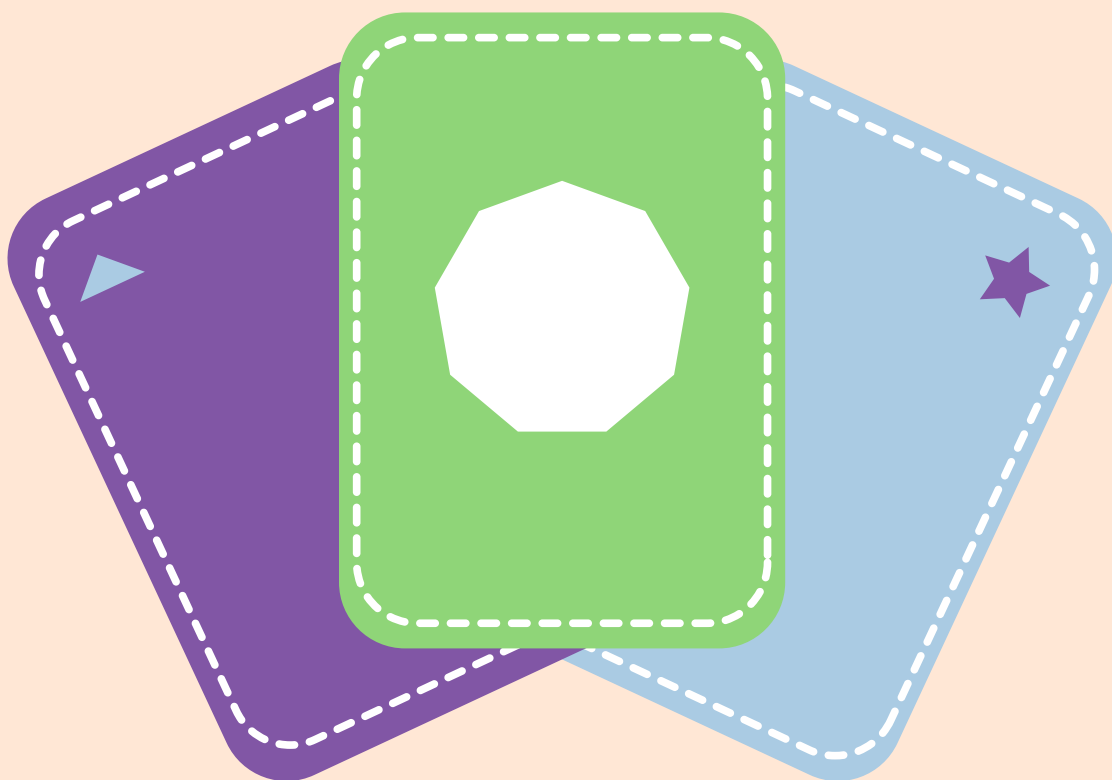
- Whistle to Signal for help



- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air



- Cards or game (to take your mind off the situation for a few moments or alleviate stress)



WILDFIRE CLOTHING KIT FOR CITIZENS



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Whether you plan to stay or evacuate, it's crucial for everyone to have protective clothing.





Get your household ready for wildfire season by preparing a clothes kit. Ensure each person has:

- Loose-fitting clothing crafted from natural fibers like wool, cotton, or denim (low burning rate).



- A long-sleeved shirt



- Trousers



- Sturdy boots.



- Woollen or cotton socks.



- A wide-brimmed helmet or hat for head and shoulder protection.

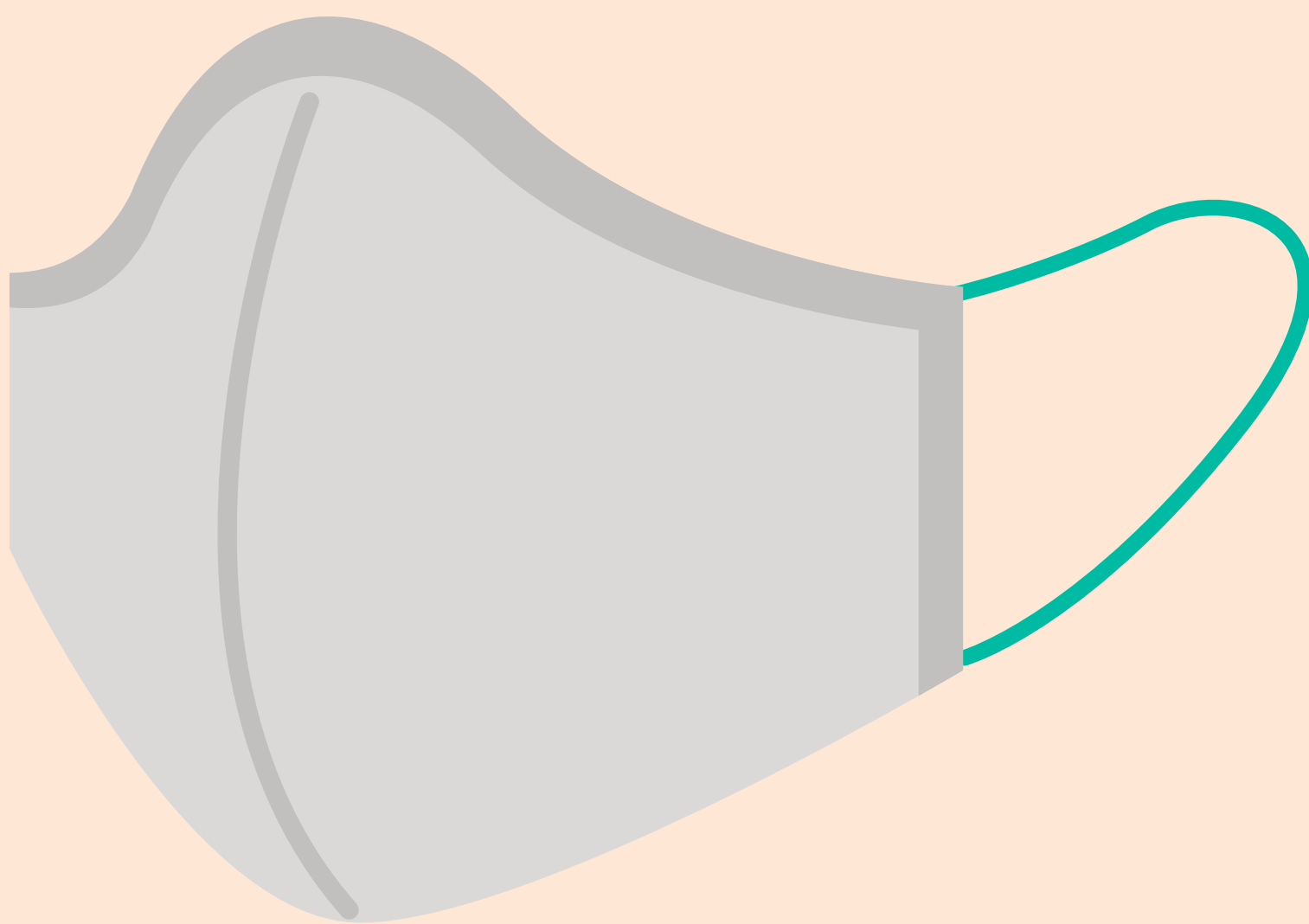


- Gloves

- Fire protection goggles or glasses.



- A smoke or particle mask, or a wet cloth.



HOW HOMES BURN



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Understanding how homes burn during wildfires is critical for enhancing wildfire preparedness and developing effective strategies to protect properties.



The mechanics of home ignition in wildfires are often complex, influenced by the home's construction, its immediate environment, and the behaviour of the wildfire itself. Here's a detailed exploration of the subject:

DIRECT FLAME CONTACT

Fire Front



The most straightforward and destructive way a home can ignite is by the direct contact of the fire front with the structure. This can occur when the wildfire reaches the property due to insufficient defensible space or the proximity of the home to flammable wildland vegetation.

Materials and Construction

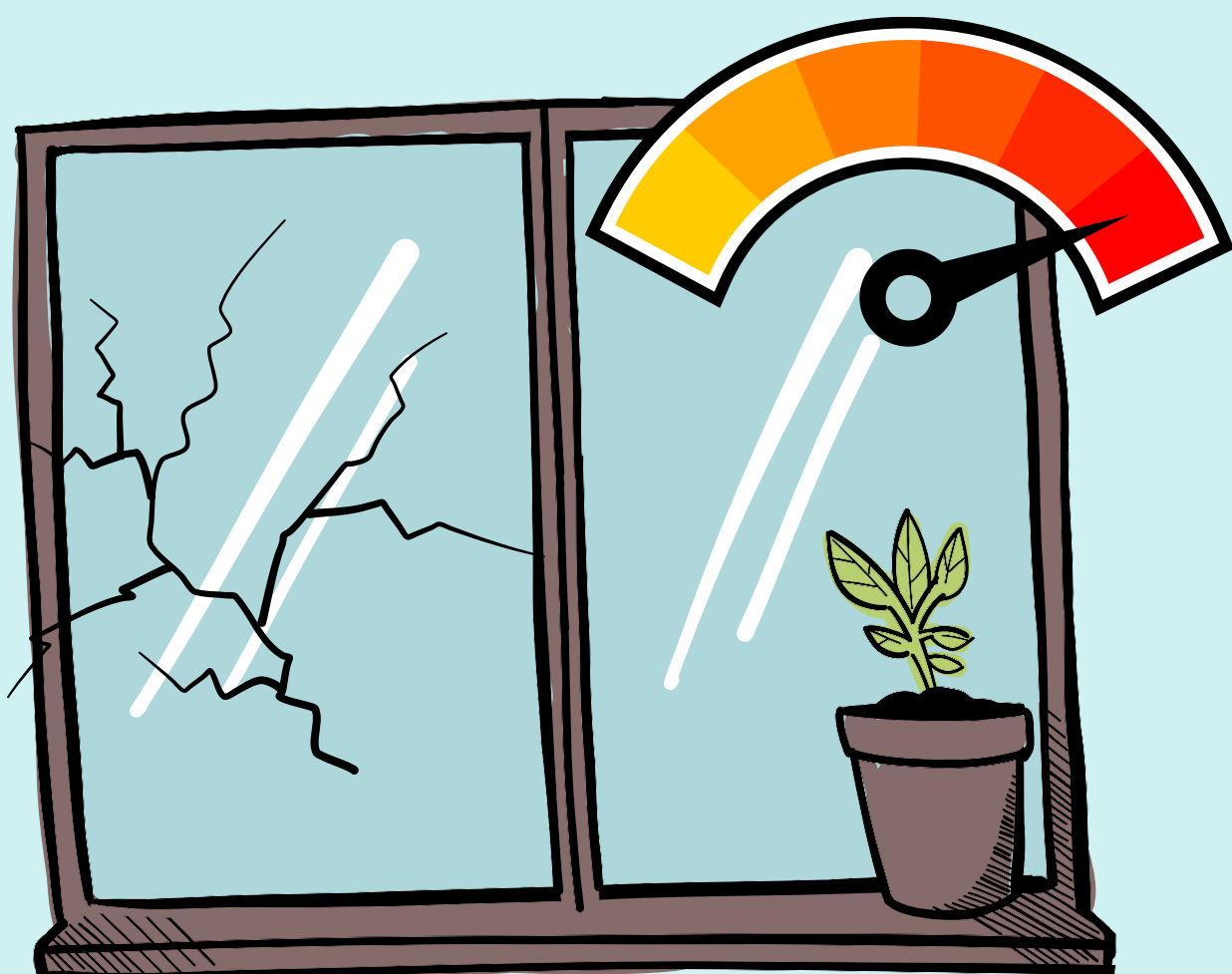
Homes built with flammable materials such as wood siding, decks, and fences are more susceptible to ignition from direct flame contact.



RADIANT HEAT

Heat intensity

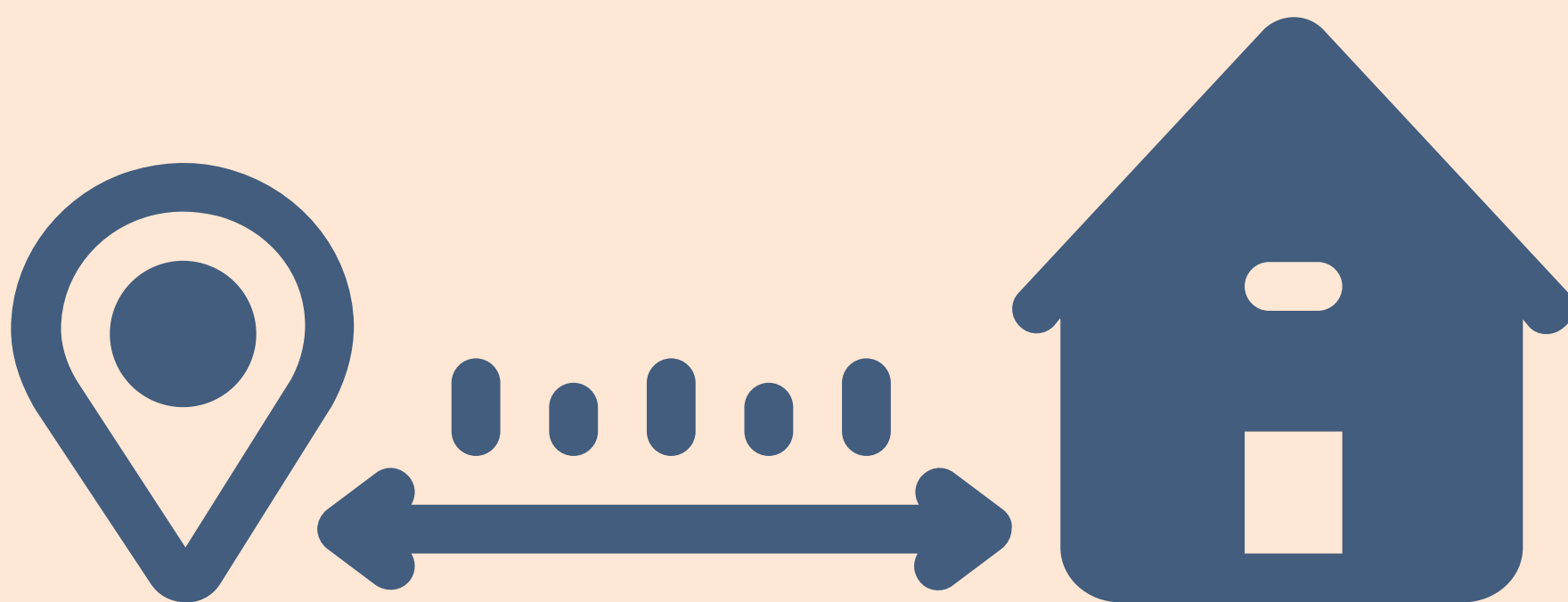
Radiant heat from a nearby fire can cause materials to reach their ignition temperature without direct flame contact. The intensity of the heat can crack windows, allowing heat and embers to enter the home, igniting curtains, furniture, and other flammable materials inside.



Distance and Duration

The risk from radiant heat increases with the intensity of the fire and the duration of exposure.

Homes that are closer to large amounts of vegetation or neighbouring structures that catch fire are particularly at risk.



EMBERS AND FIREBRANDS

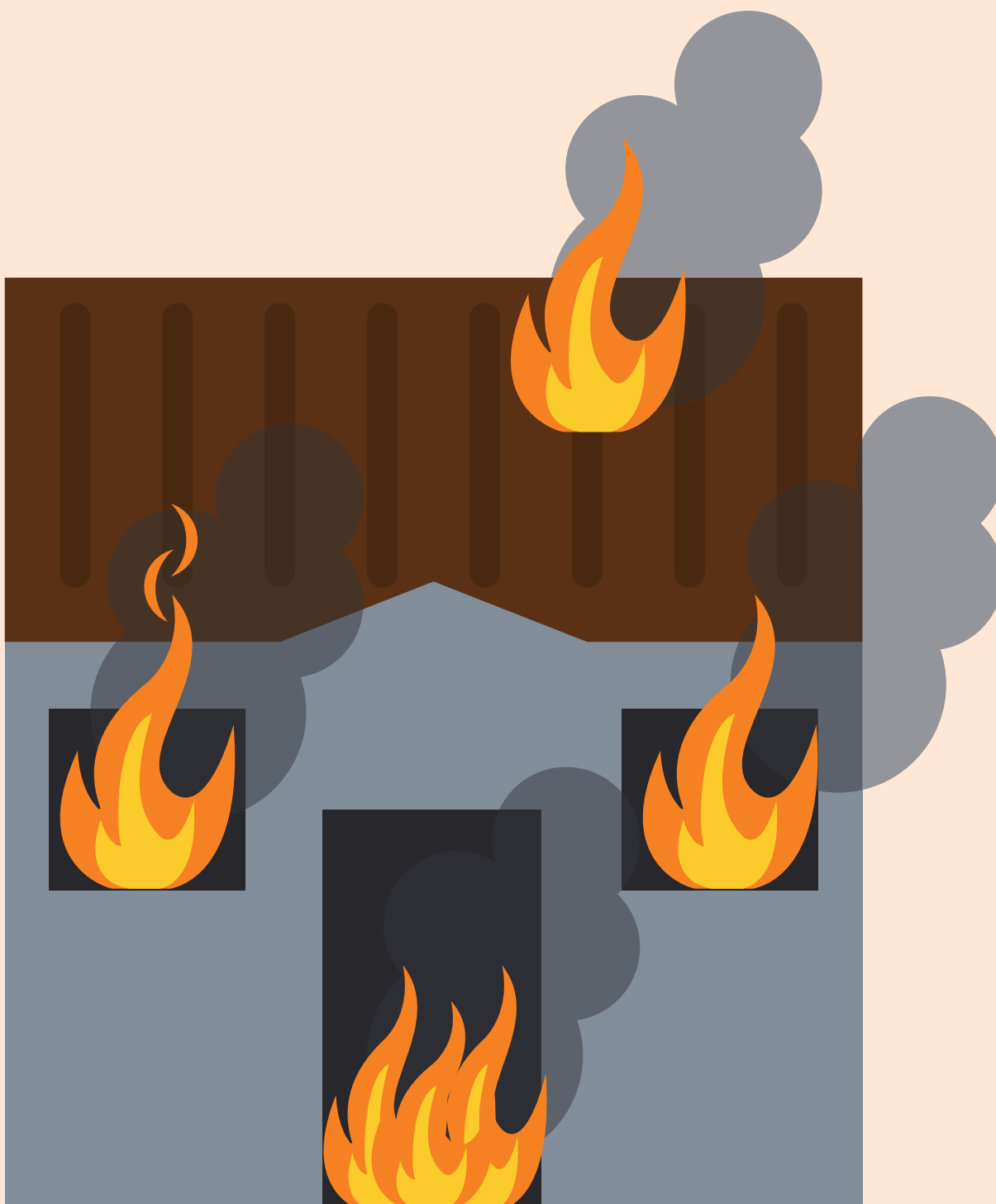
Most Common Cause

Embers, or firebrands, are burning pieces of airborne wood or vegetation that can travel more than a mile away from the main fire. They are the leading cause of home ignitions in wildfires.



Vulnerable Spots

Embers can accumulate and ignite materials on roofs, in gutters, on decks, and near or under vent openings, through cracks in windows and doors, and in other nooks and crannies where combustible materials are present.



INTERNAL SOURCES

Pre-Existing Fires

Sometimes, fires start internally due to electrical failures, gas leaks, or other mechanical failures that occur during a wildfire due to infrastructure damage.



Secondary Fires

After the initial wildfire threat has passed, homes can catch fire due to smoldering vegetation nearby or residual heat retained in surrounding materials.



HOME PROTECTION MEASURES



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EVACUATE EARLY

- Leave promptly for your safety and your family's.



- Delaying evacuation increases risks and potential loss of life.

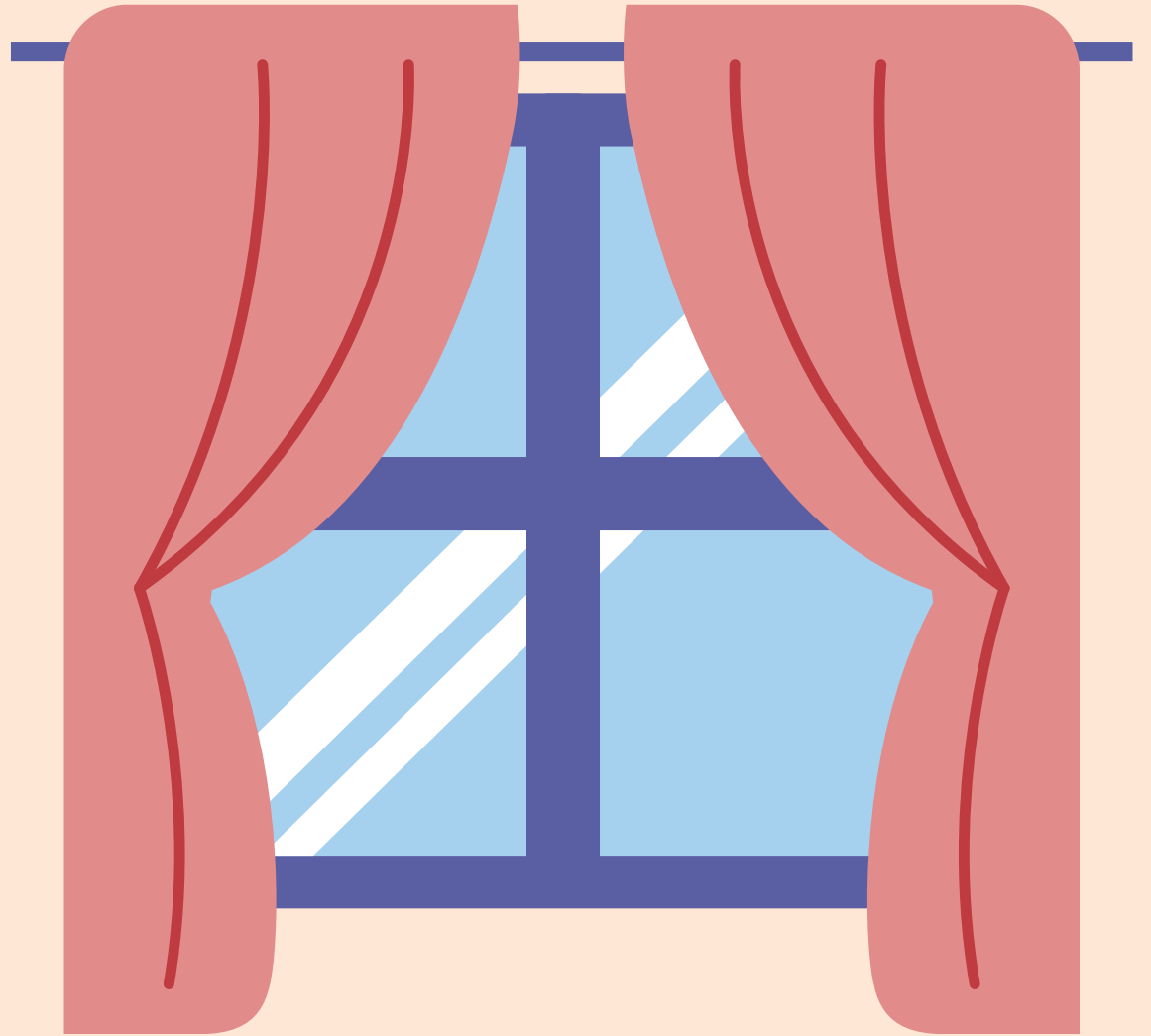
GATHER ESSENTIALS



- Pack medicines, important papers, supplies, and pets into your vehicle.

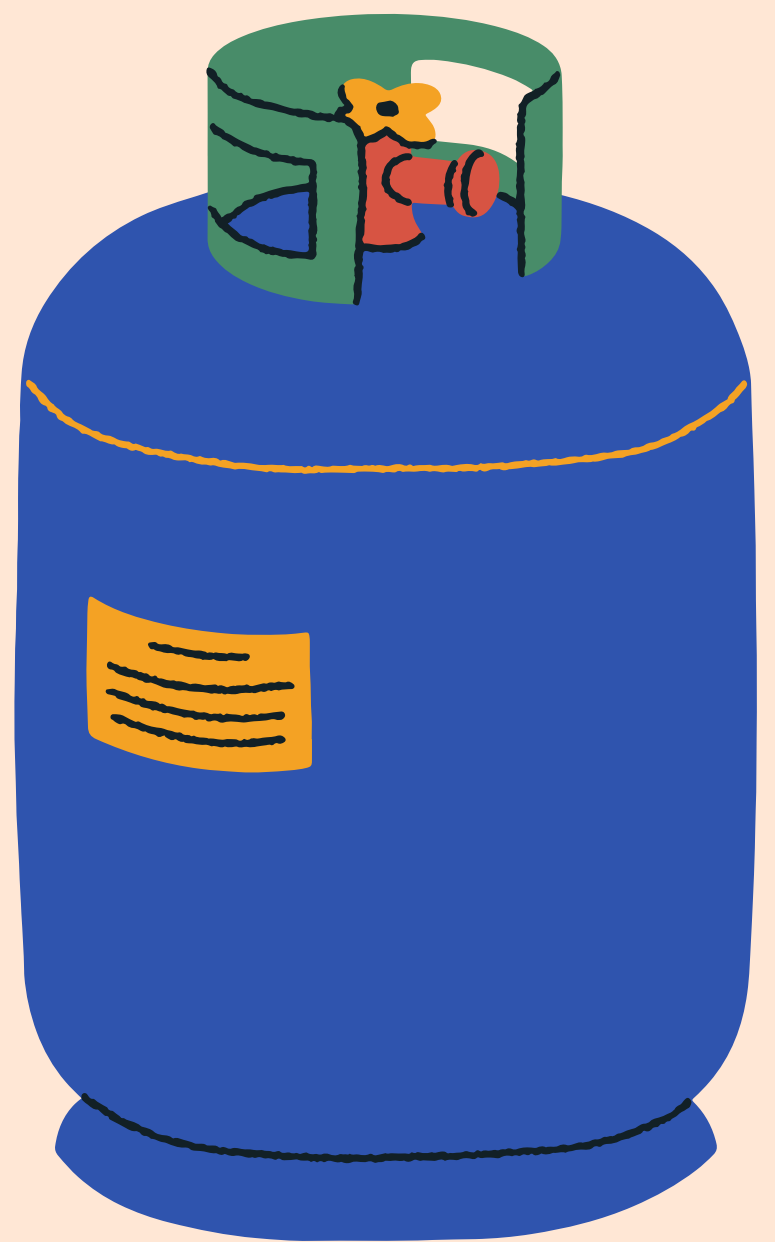
SECURE YOUR HOME

- Close windows, doors, and blinds.



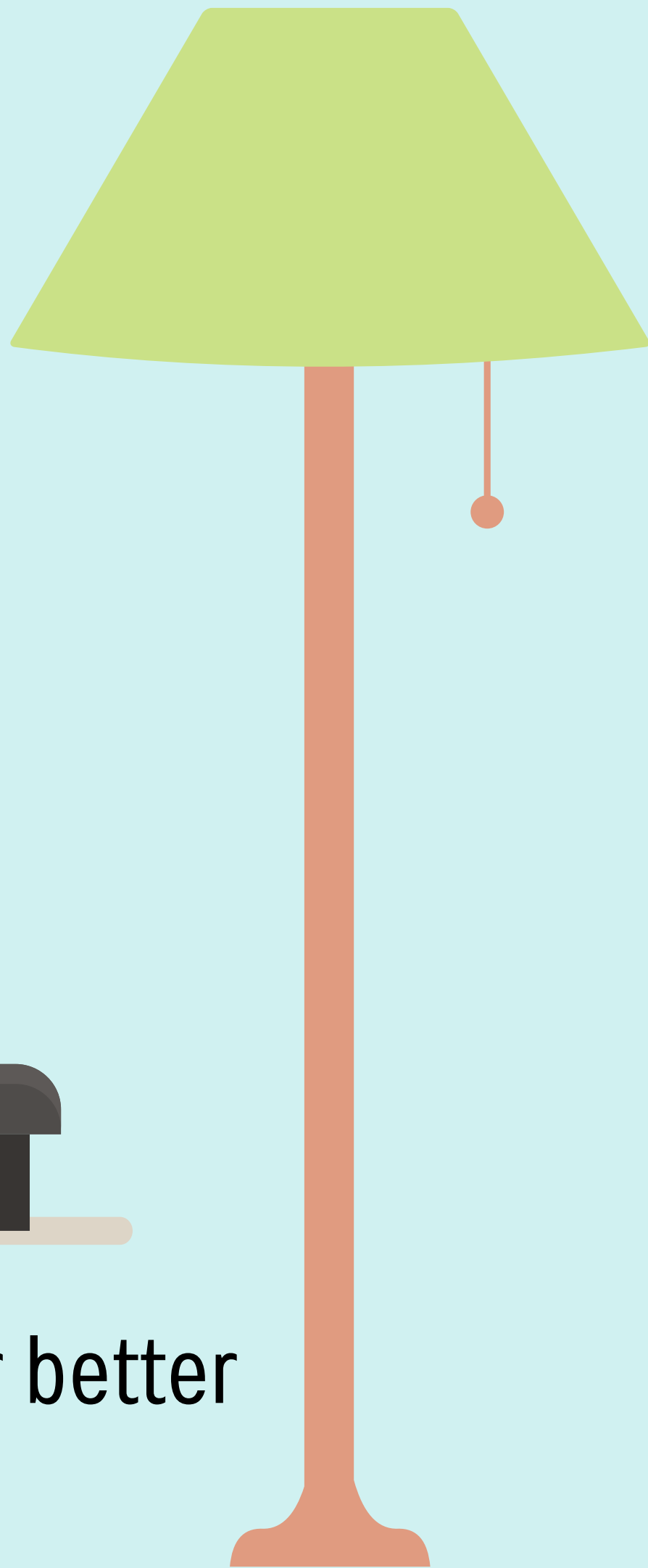
- Remove flammable items from windows.

- Shut off gas and propane; keep a wrench handy.



PREPARE INSIDE

- Close fireplace screens.



- Turn on lights for better visibility.
- Move flammable items away from windows.

READY FOR ACTION

- Set up ladders and place firefighting tools in front of your house.



OUTDOOR PRECAUTIONS

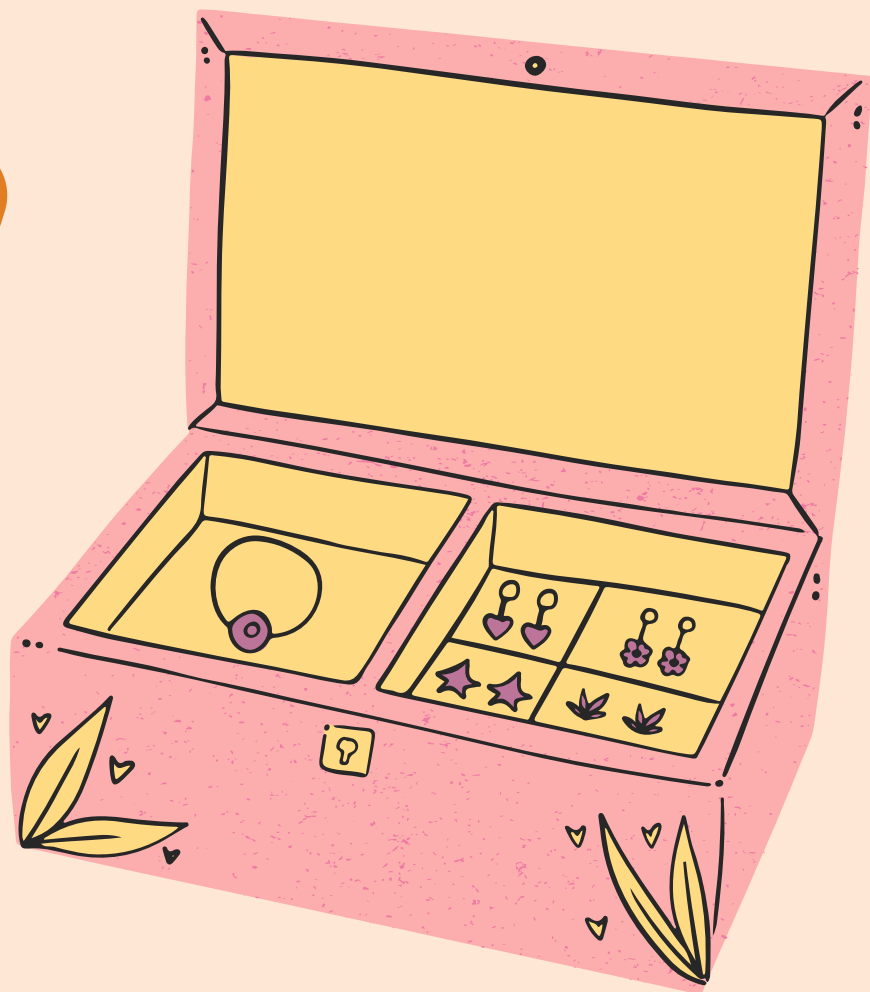
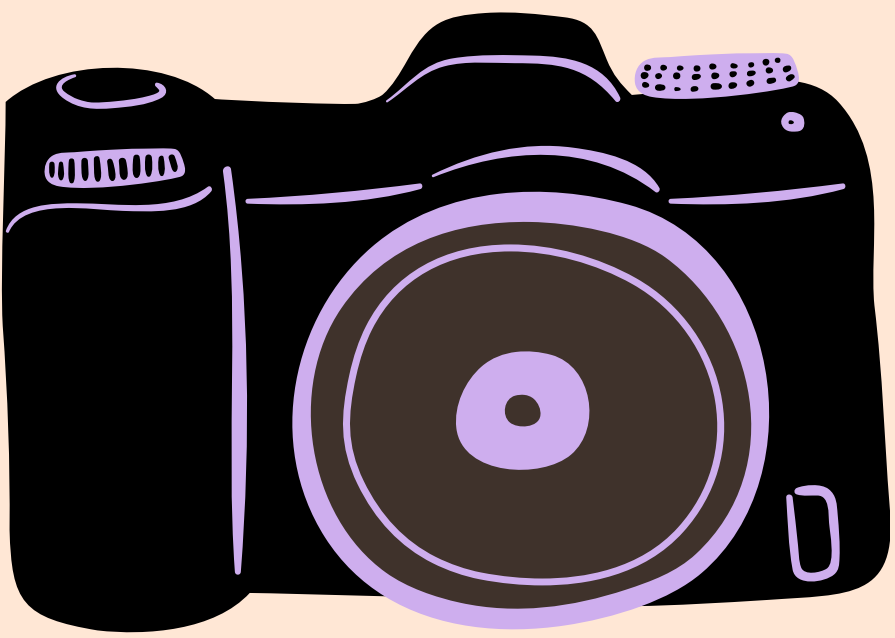
- Move patio furniture away from the structure.
- Connect hoses and sprinklers.



- If possible, use a portable gas pump.

DOCUMENT BELONGINGS

- Record belongings by taking photos for insurance purposes.



WATER SAFETY MEASURES

- Use lawn sprinklers on the roof and near fuel tanks if combustible materials are present.



- Wet down the area but turn off sprinklers when leaving.

CREATE A DEFENSIBLE SPACE

- Rake a bare soil line around structures and fences.

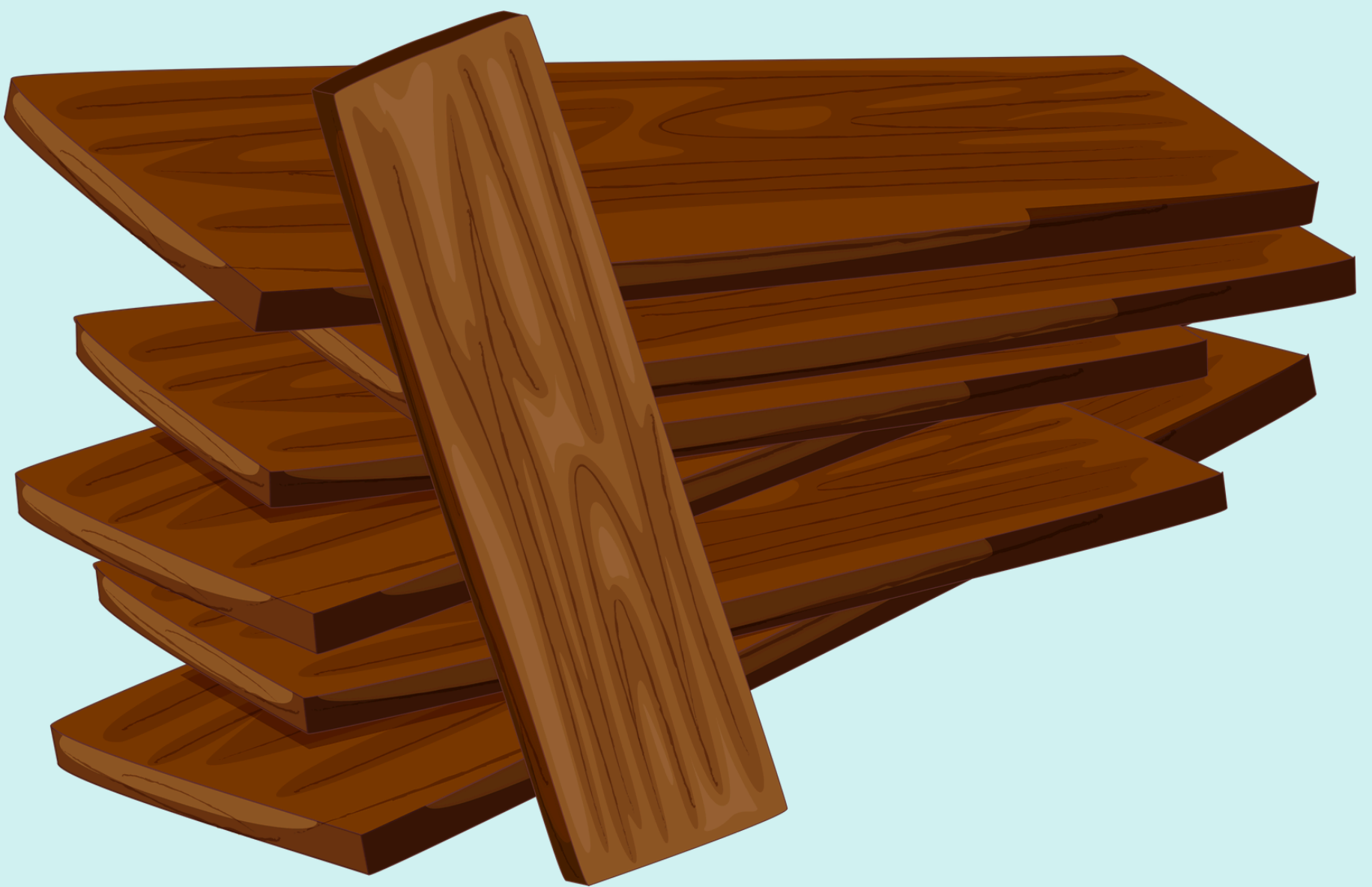


- Wet or remove shrubs within 10 meters of your home.



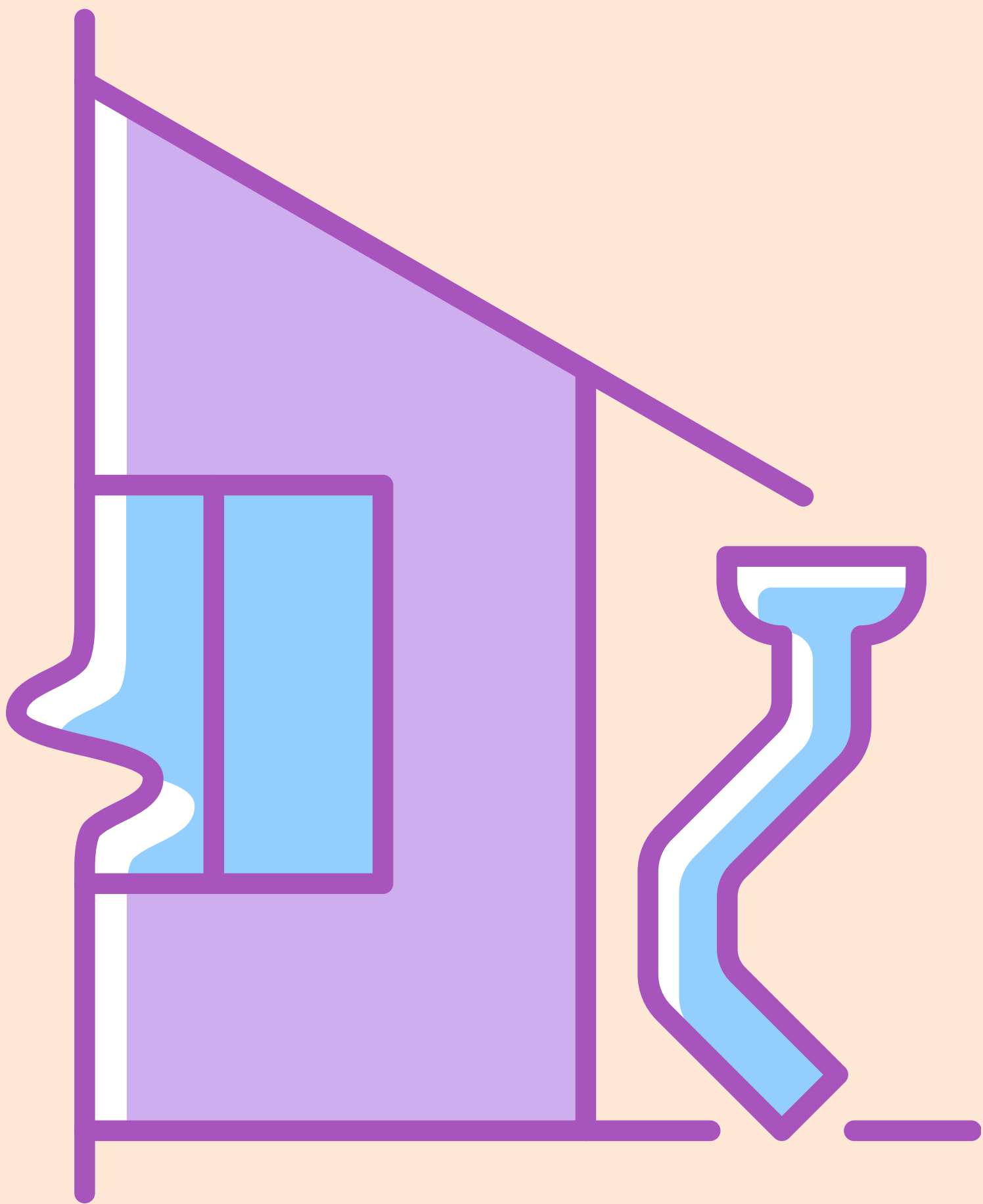
SEAL OPENINGS

- Close attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or heavy aluminum foil.



GUTTER PROTECTION

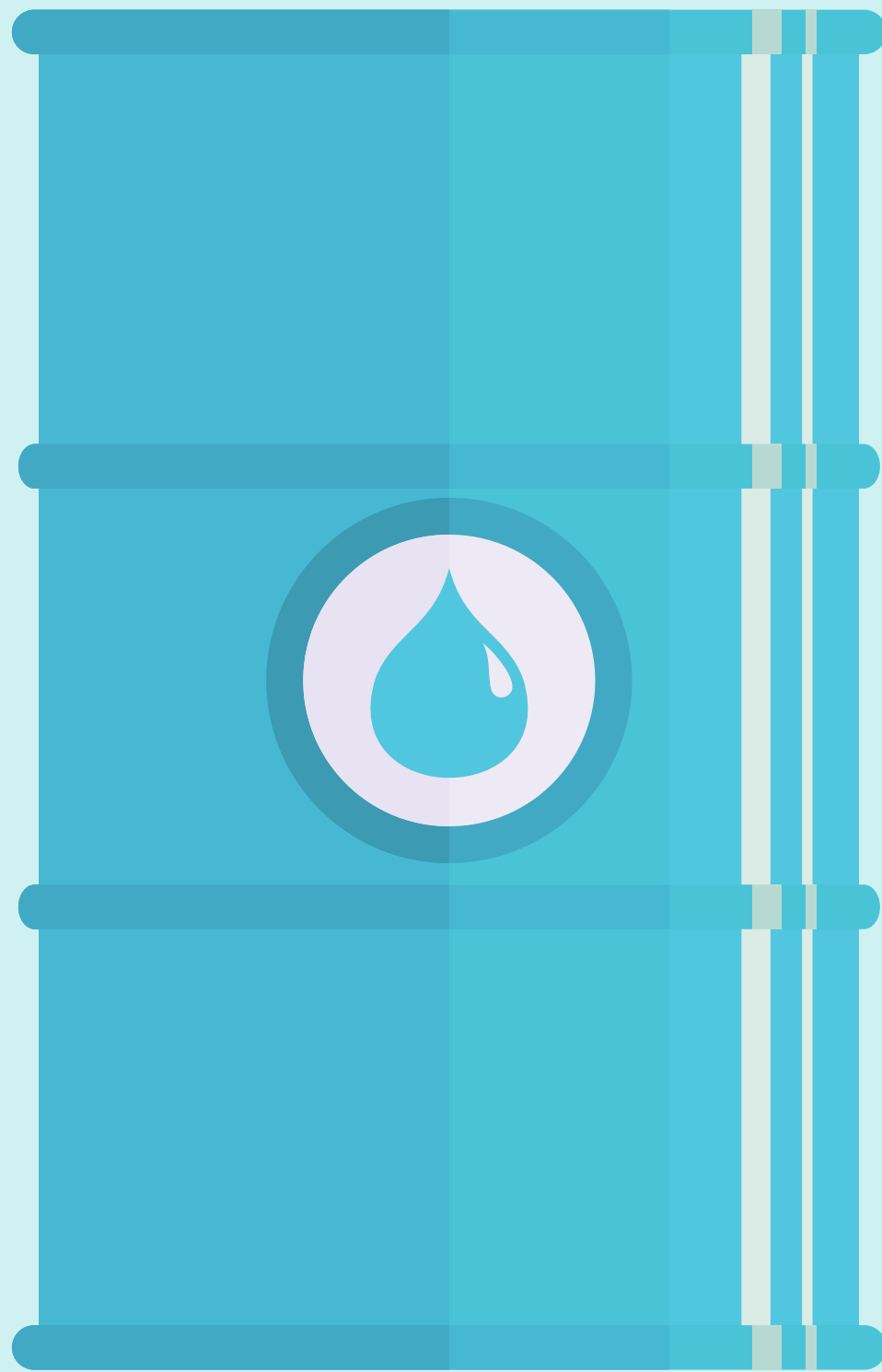
- Plug downspouts with sand-filled ziplock bags.



- Fill gutters with water.

WATER SOURCES

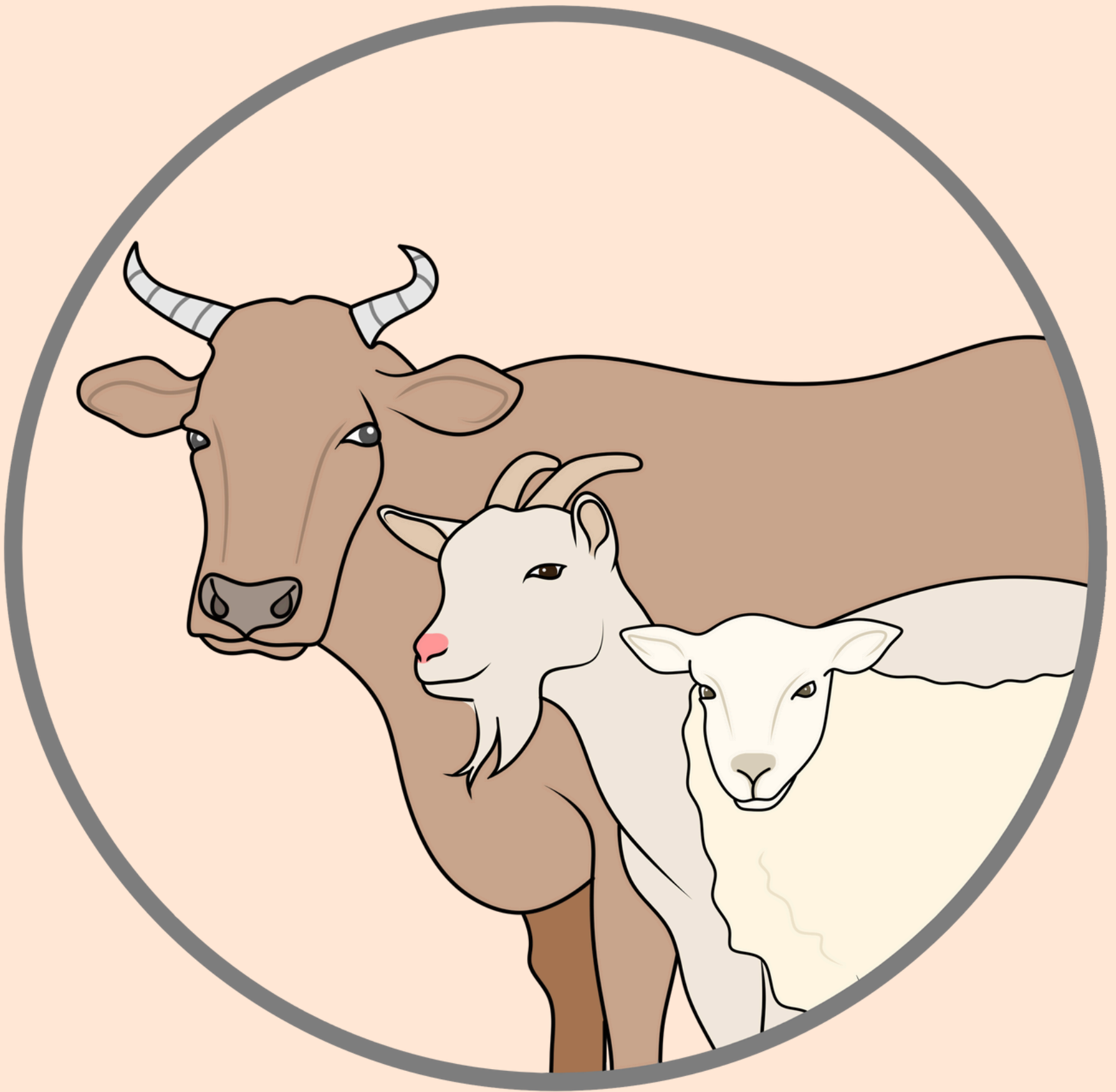
- Wet down the pump house.
- Clear vegetation near water supply.



- Place water-filled containers in front of the house.

LIVESTOCK EVACUATION

- Implement evacuation plans for livestock.



PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM WILDFIRES



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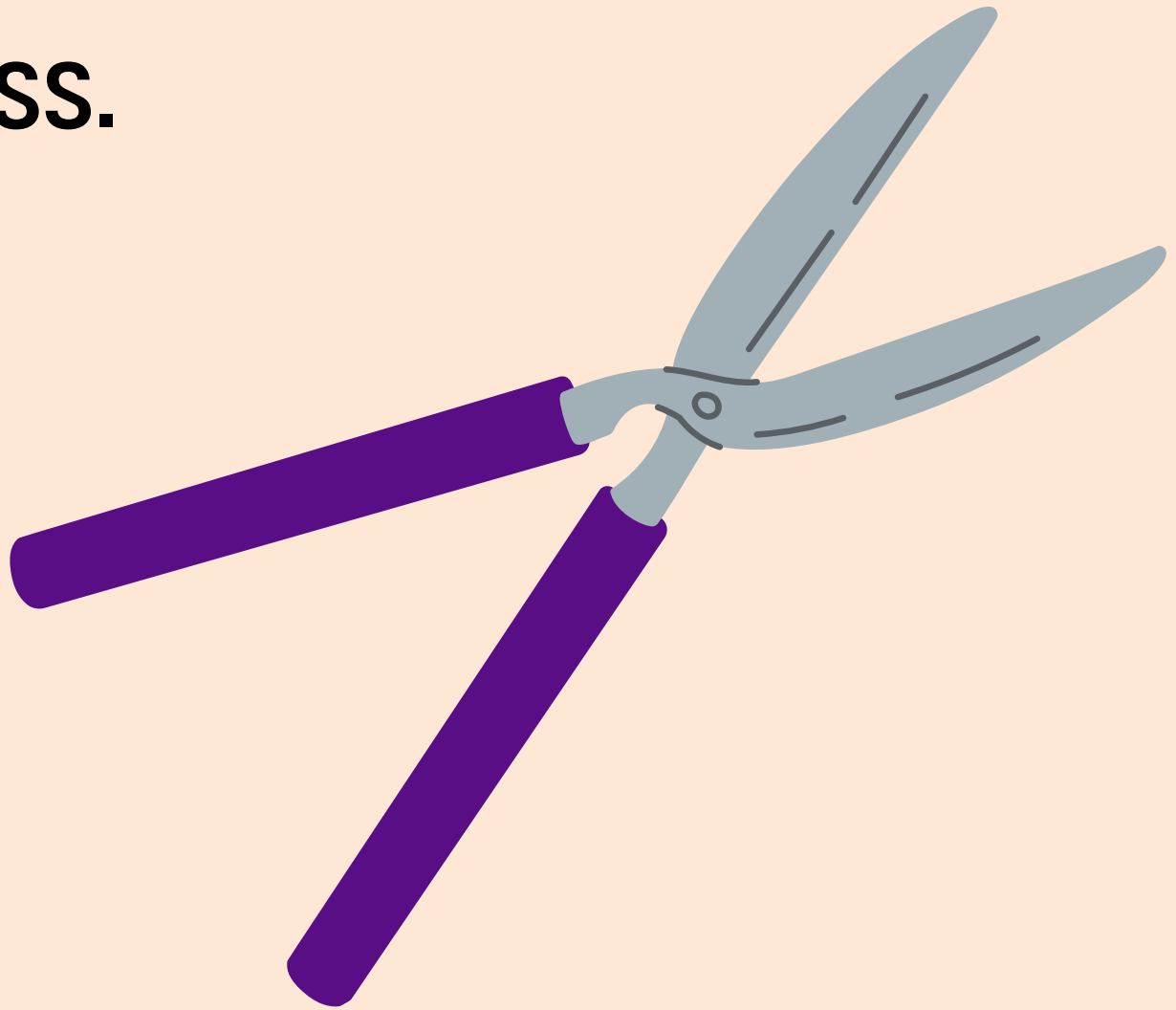


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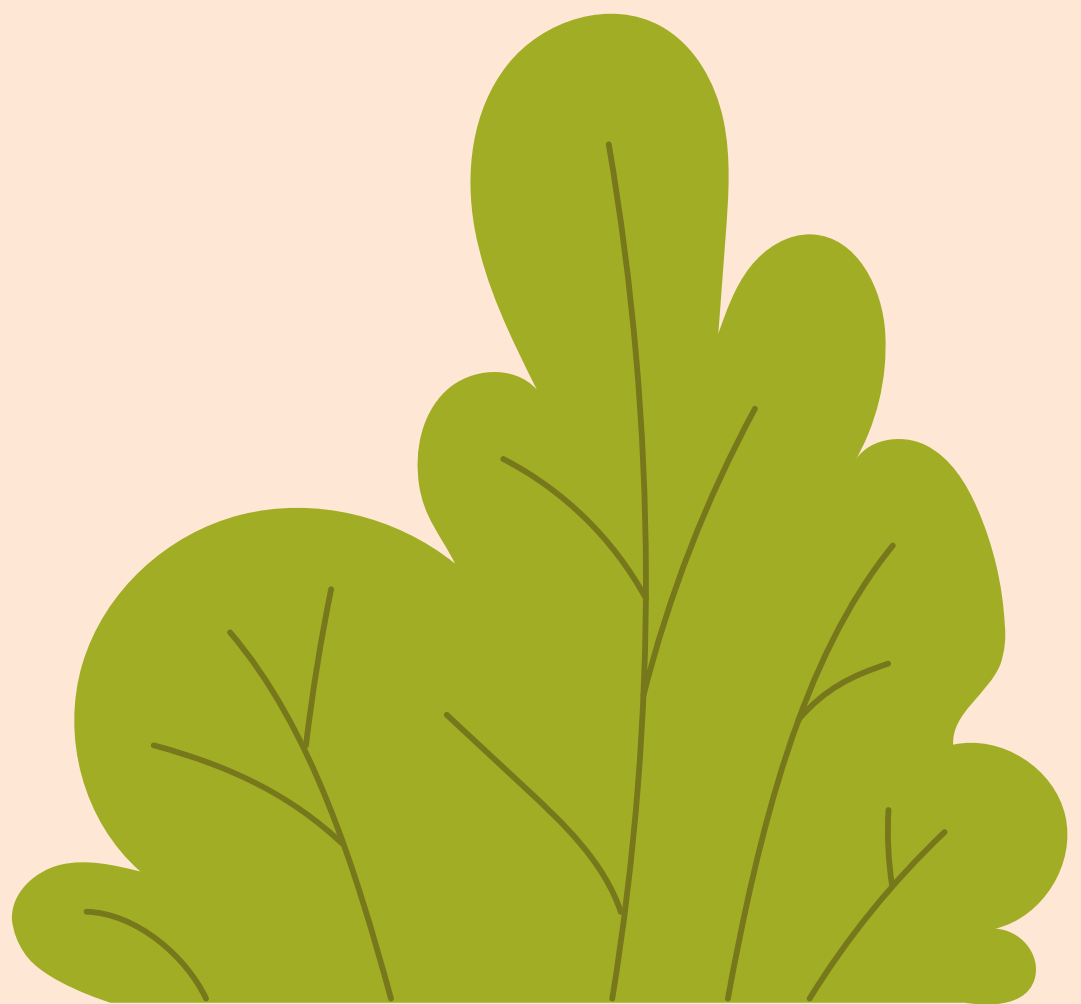
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MONTHLY PREPARATIONS

- Trim the grass around your property to a height of 10cm or less.



- Prune shrubs to reduce density.



- **Secure gas cylinders in an upright position and ensure they are properly chained.**

- **Confirm that gas release valves face away from the property.**



- **Clean gutters regularly.**

ANNUAL PREPARATIONS

- Place gas cylinders away from potential fire directions (e.g., areas with bushes) and orient release valves outward.
- Remove shrubs, wood, mulch, or any flammable materials around or near the house.

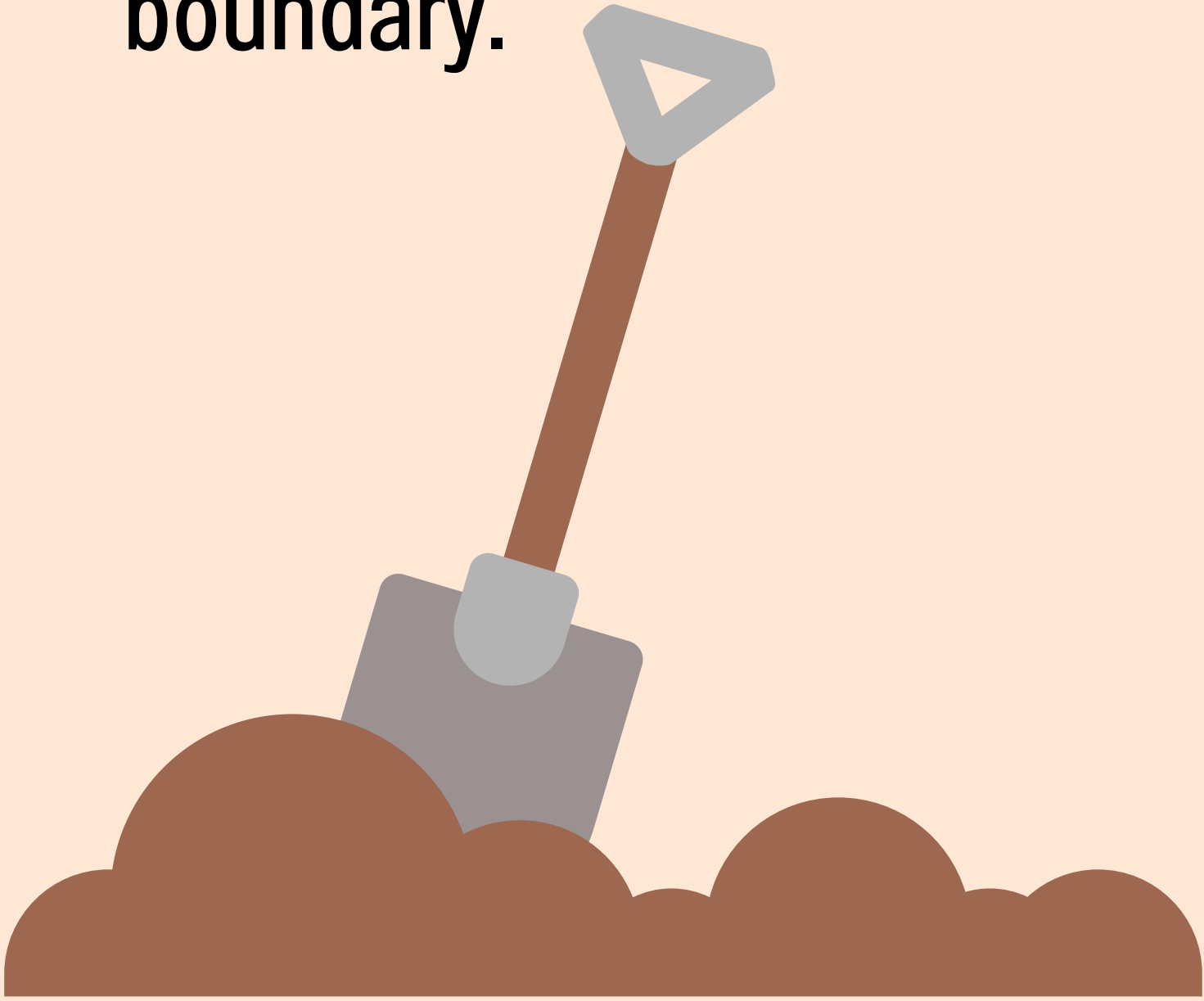


- Block gaps under the floor, in roof spaces, under eaves, external vents, skylights, chimneys, and wall claddings.

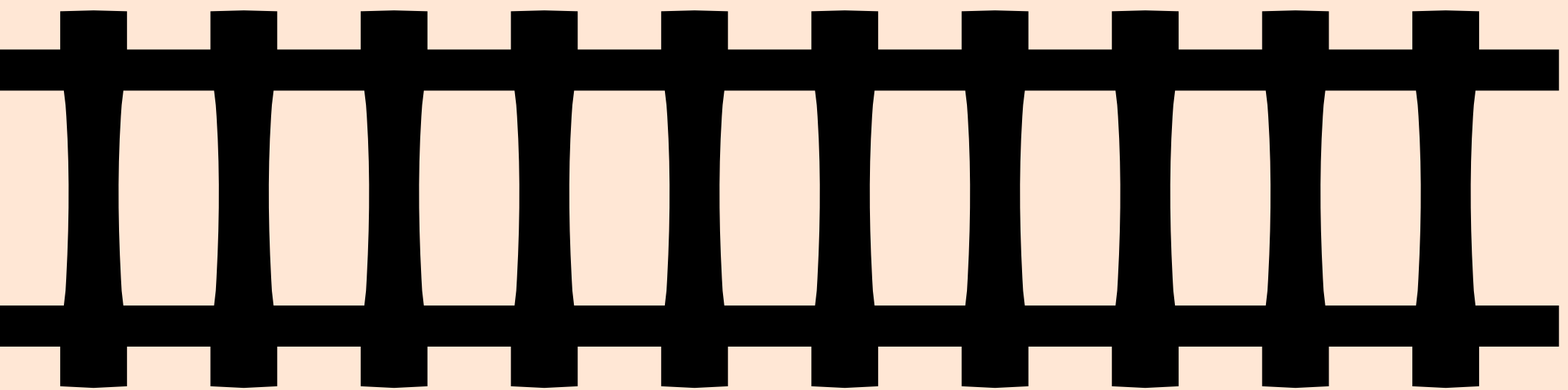


- Install metal fly wire mesh on windows, vents, and a protective screen on evaporative air conditioners.

- Create a mineral earth firebreak along the property boundary.



- Install a fire or heat radiant shield, such as a solid fence.



ADDITIONAL PREPARATIONS FOR RURAL PROPERTIES

- Ensure fire trucks can access and turn around on your property.
- Verify bridge loading and cattle grid loading for fire truck access.

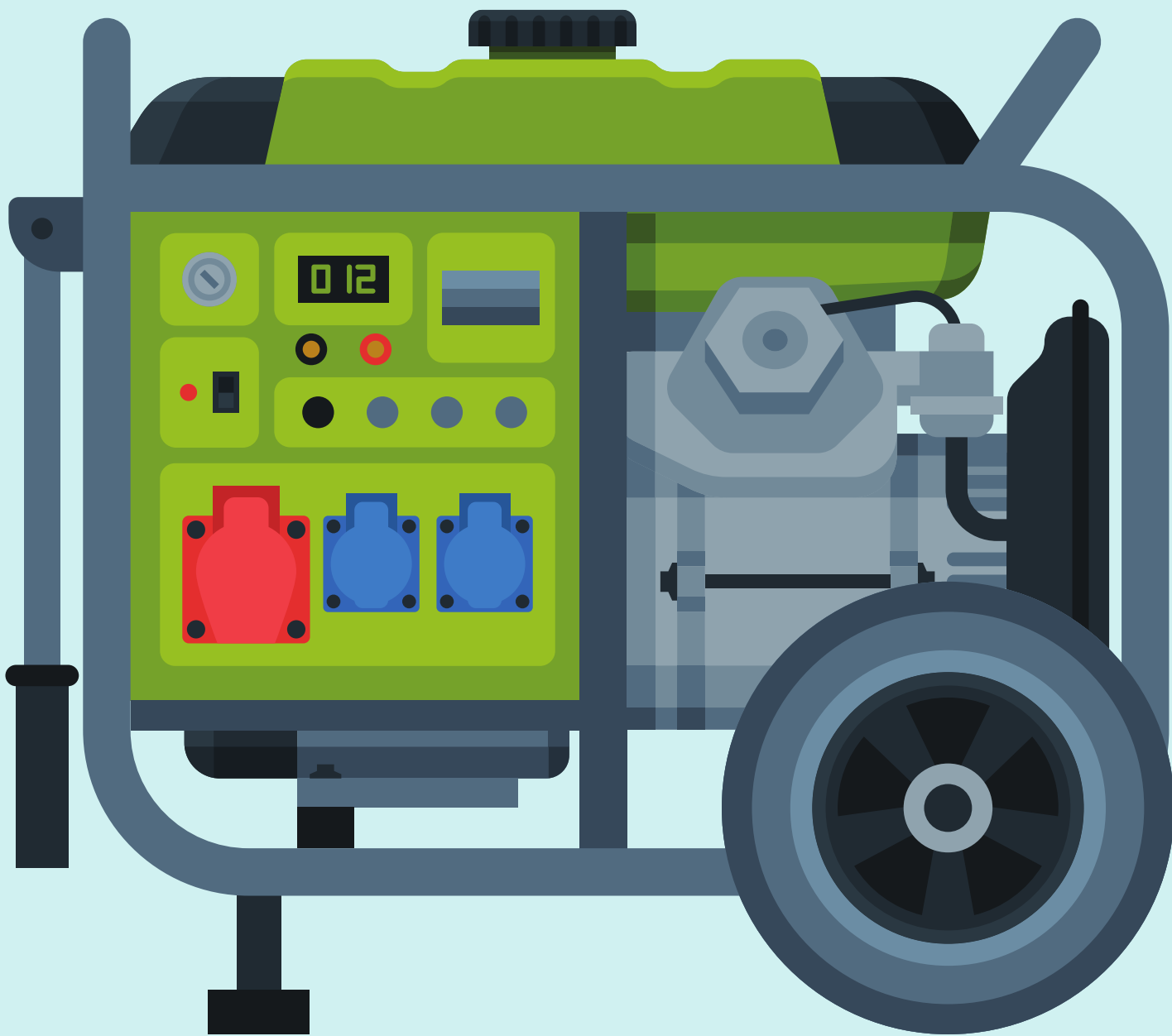


- **Create firebreaks along paddock boundaries.**



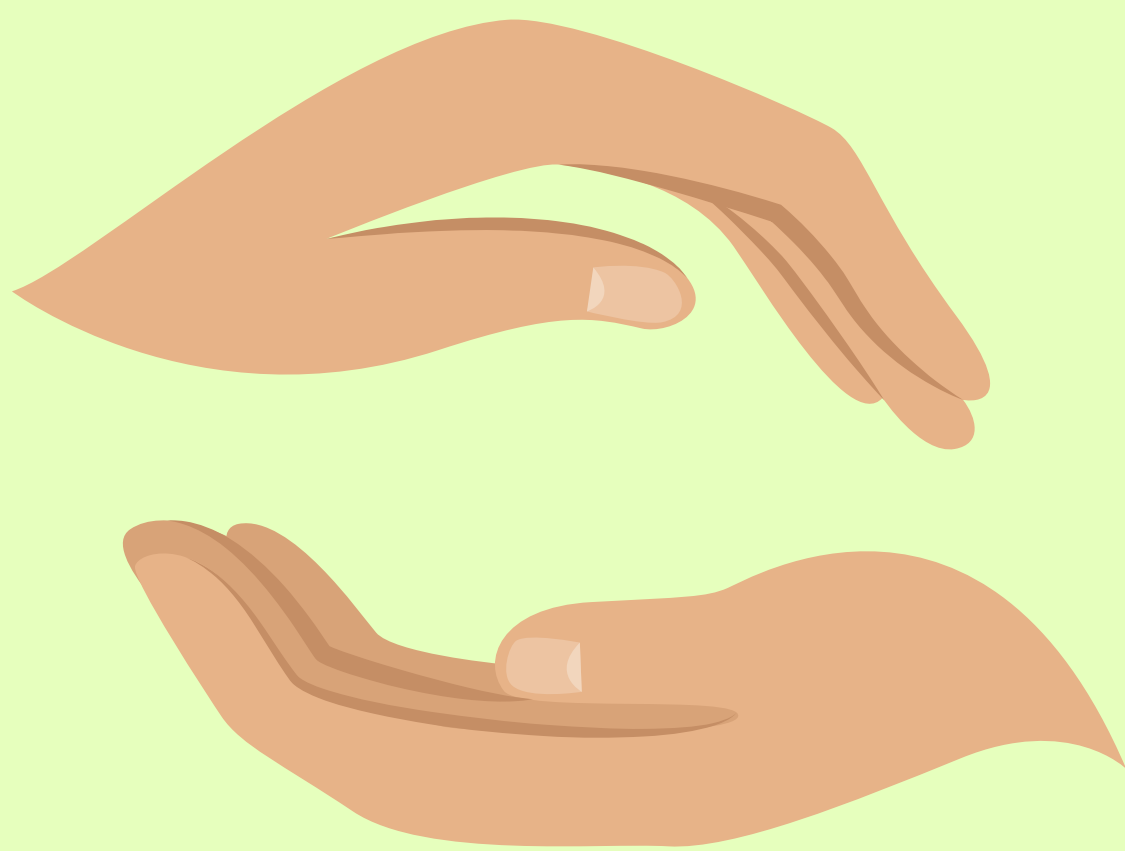
- **Safely store petrol and gas.**

- **Install underground water pumps leading from dams to the house.**
- **Regularly check that generators and pumps are in working order.**



- **If a fire threatens, move livestock to a well-grazed paddock.**

**STRATEGIES FOR
CREATING DEFENSIBLE
SPACE AND
STRENGTHENING THE
RESILIENCE OF
YOUR HOME**



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



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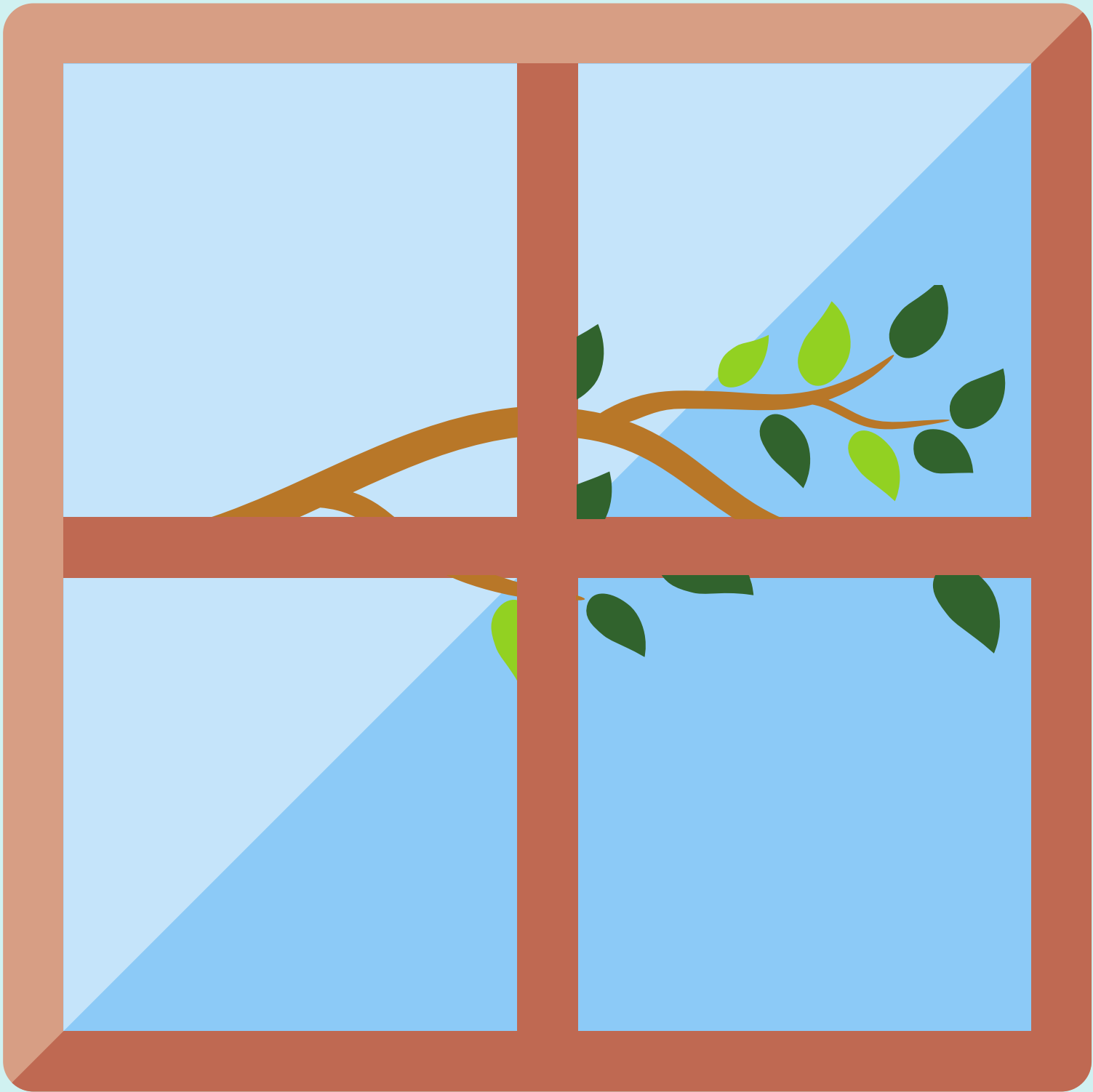
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- Regularly clean your roof, gutters, decks, and the base of walls to prevent the accumulation of flammable materials like fallen leaves and needles.



- Remove all combustible materials from underneath, on top of, or within 1.5 meters of a deck.

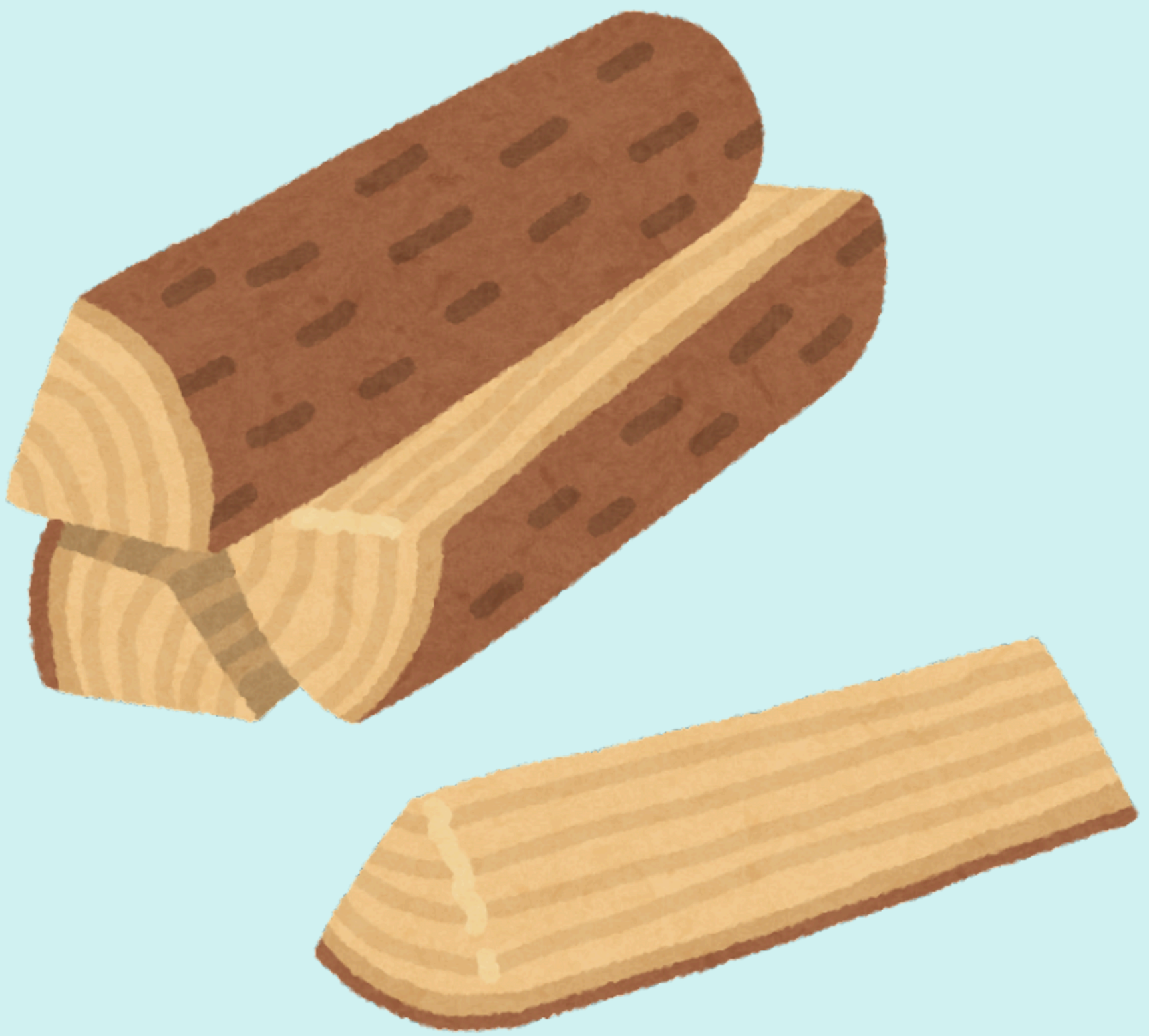
- Eliminate vegetation or other combustible materials within 1.5 meters of windows and glass doors.



- Substitute wood mulch products within 1.5 meters of all structures with noncombustible alternatives like dirt, stone, or gravel.



- Clear all dead or dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds, and pine needles within 10 meters of all structures or up to the property line.



- Store exposed firewood at least 10 meters away from structures or cover it entirely with a fire-resistant material that prevents embers from penetrating. Ensure a 3-meter clearance around your wood piles.

- Keep combustible outdoor furnishings stored away from your home when not in use.



- Properly store retractable awnings and umbrellas when not in use to prevent them from collecting leaves and embers.

INSURANCE PREPAREDNESS



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You should make sure that your insurance coverage is adequate, up-to-date, and that you understand what is covered in the event of a wildfire.



This form of preparedness is crucial because it helps to mitigate the financial impact of damage caused by wildfires to homes, businesses, and other properties. Here are key aspects of insurance preparedness for wildfires:

REVIEWING INSURANCE POLICIES

Adequate Coverage

Ensure that your insurance policy covers not just the structure of your home but also your belongings and the cost of additional living expenses if you are displaced. It's crucial that the coverage reflects the current value and costs of rebuilding and replacing your possessions.



Understanding What's Covered

Knowing what your insurance covers and what it excludes. For example, some policies might not automatically include coverage for other structures like sheds or garages.



Mitigation of Further Damage

Understand your responsibilities in terms of mitigating further damage after a wildfire, as failing to do so can sometimes affect claim settlements.



SPECIAL WILDFIRE COVERAGE

Comprehensive Coverage

Some areas prone to wildfires might require additional or specialized insurance coverage. This can include policies that specifically cover the peril of fire or supplemental policies for smoke damage.



Difference in Conditions (DIC) Coverage

For those in high-risk areas, DIC policies can provide additional coverage where standard policies may fall short, particularly for hazards like landslides or floods that might occur post-fire.



DOCUMENTING PROPERTY AND BELONGINGS

Home Inventory

Create a detailed inventory of home contents and other personal property.

This documentation should include photos, descriptions, and the purchase price of items which can be crucial for claims.



Secure Storage

Store insurance documents and home inventory records in a secure, fire-proof location and consider keeping digital copies in cloud storage to ensure they are accessible from anywhere.



PROACTIVE COMMUNICATION

Contact Information

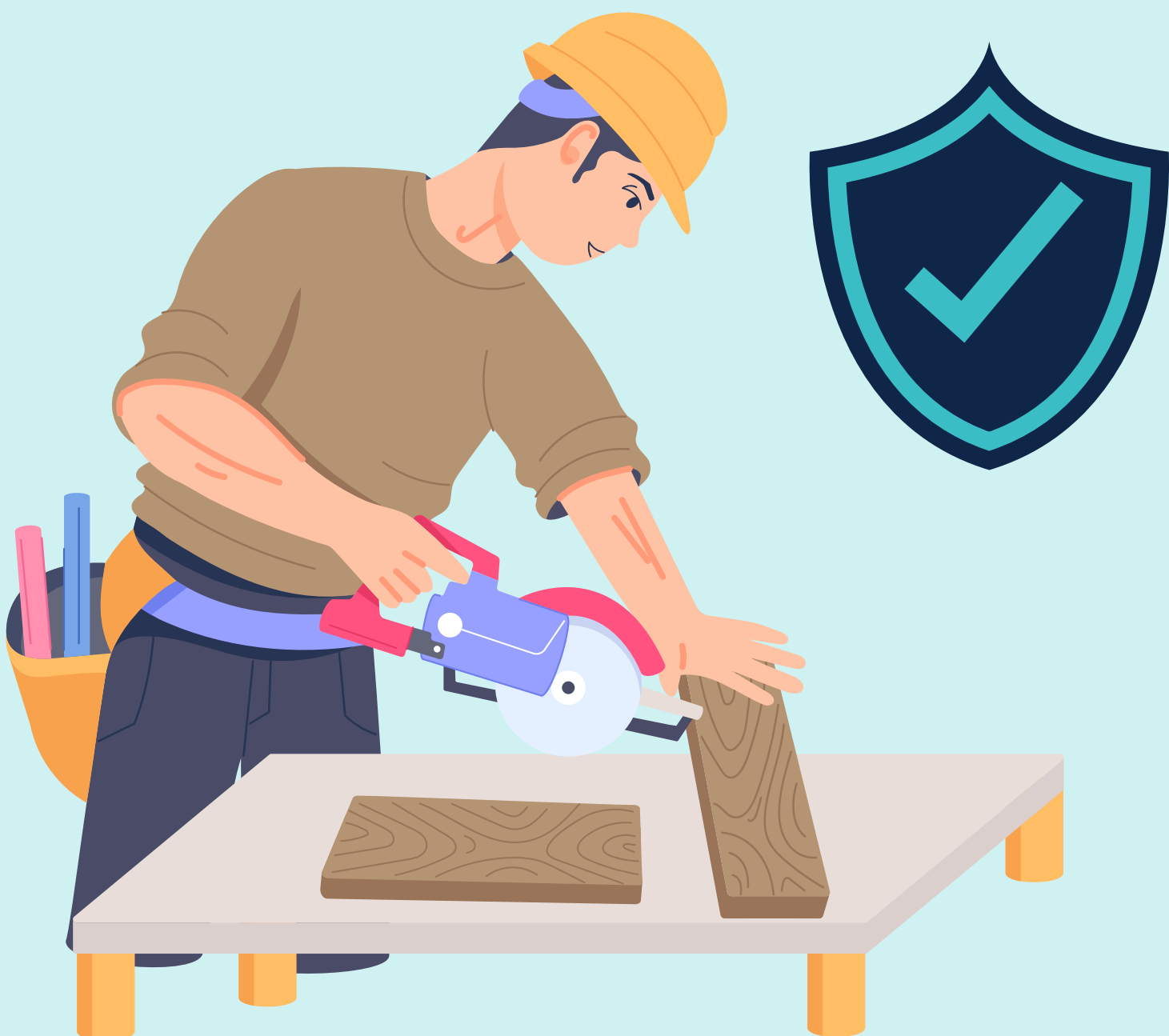
Keep up-to-date contact information for your insurance agent or company readily accessible. Know who to call and what steps to follow to initiate a claim.



RISK MITIGATION

Mitigation Measures

Implement mitigation measures that could reduce insurance premiums and enhance property safety, such as creating defensible space, using fire-resistant building materials, and installing sprinkler systems.



WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS FOR HOUSEHOLD PETS



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IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDS

Microchip and ID Tags

Ensure all pets have up-to-date identification.



Microchipping is highly recommended because it is a permanent form of ID.

Collars with tags should include your name, phone number, and any urgent medical needs.



Important documents

Keep a copy of your pet's registration, ownership, vaccination records, and any medical records in a waterproof container or bag. These documents are essential for boarding pets at an evacuation shelter.



EMERGENCY KIT FOR PETS

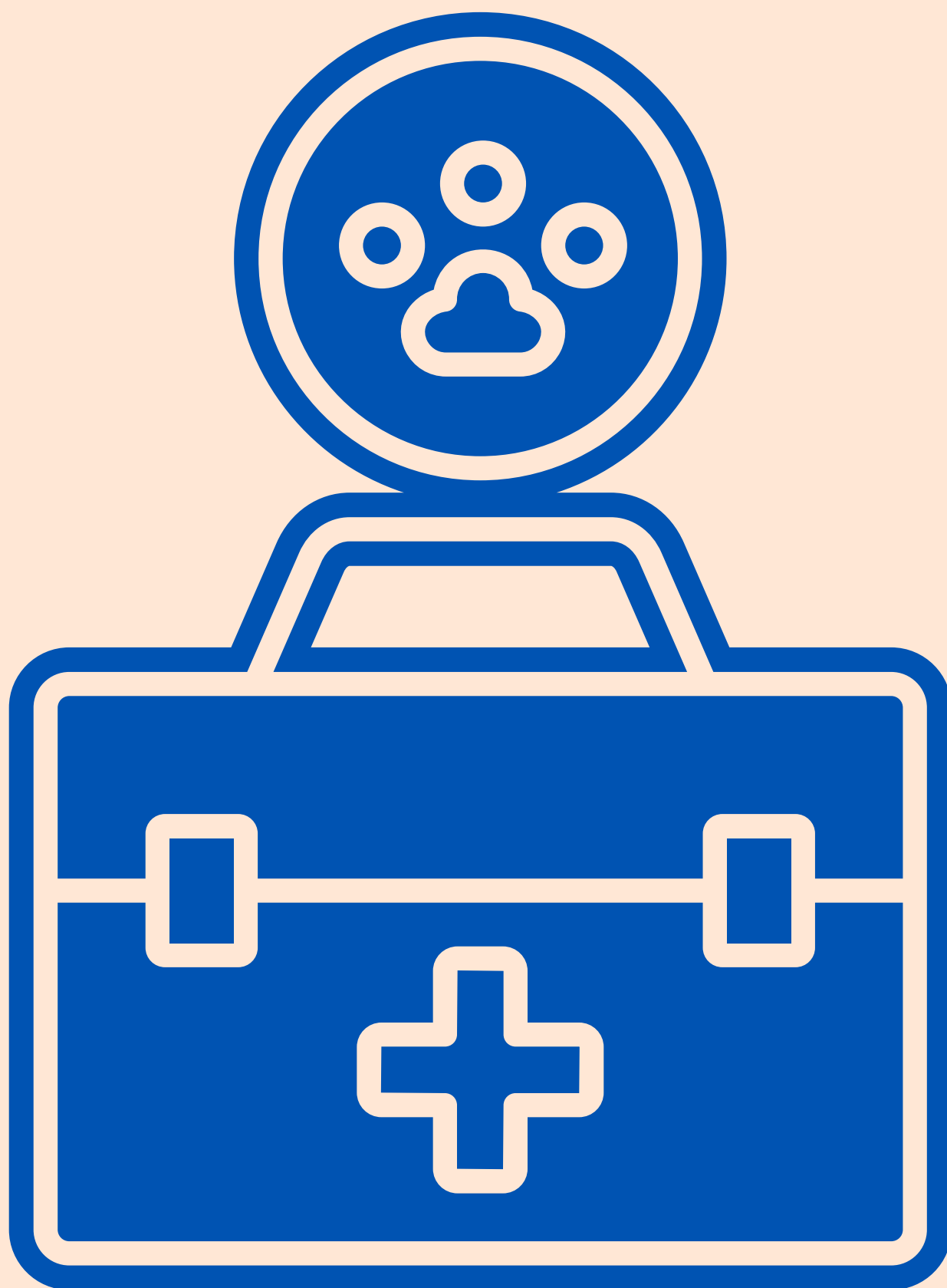
Food and water

Have a portable bag with at least a 3-day supply of pet food and bottled water, along with dishes, a can opener (if needed), and a spoon.



Medications and Medical Supplies

Pack a supply of any medicines your pet takes on a regular basis, along with a pet first aid kit.



Leashes, Harnesses, and Carriers

Have a sturdy leash or harness, and an appropriate-sized pet carrier with comfortable bedding inside. Carriers should be labeled with your contact information and the pet's name.



Comfort Items

Include favorite toys or treats to help alleviate stress.



Sanitation Needs

Pack litter, a litter box, and a scoop for cats, and waste bags for dogs.



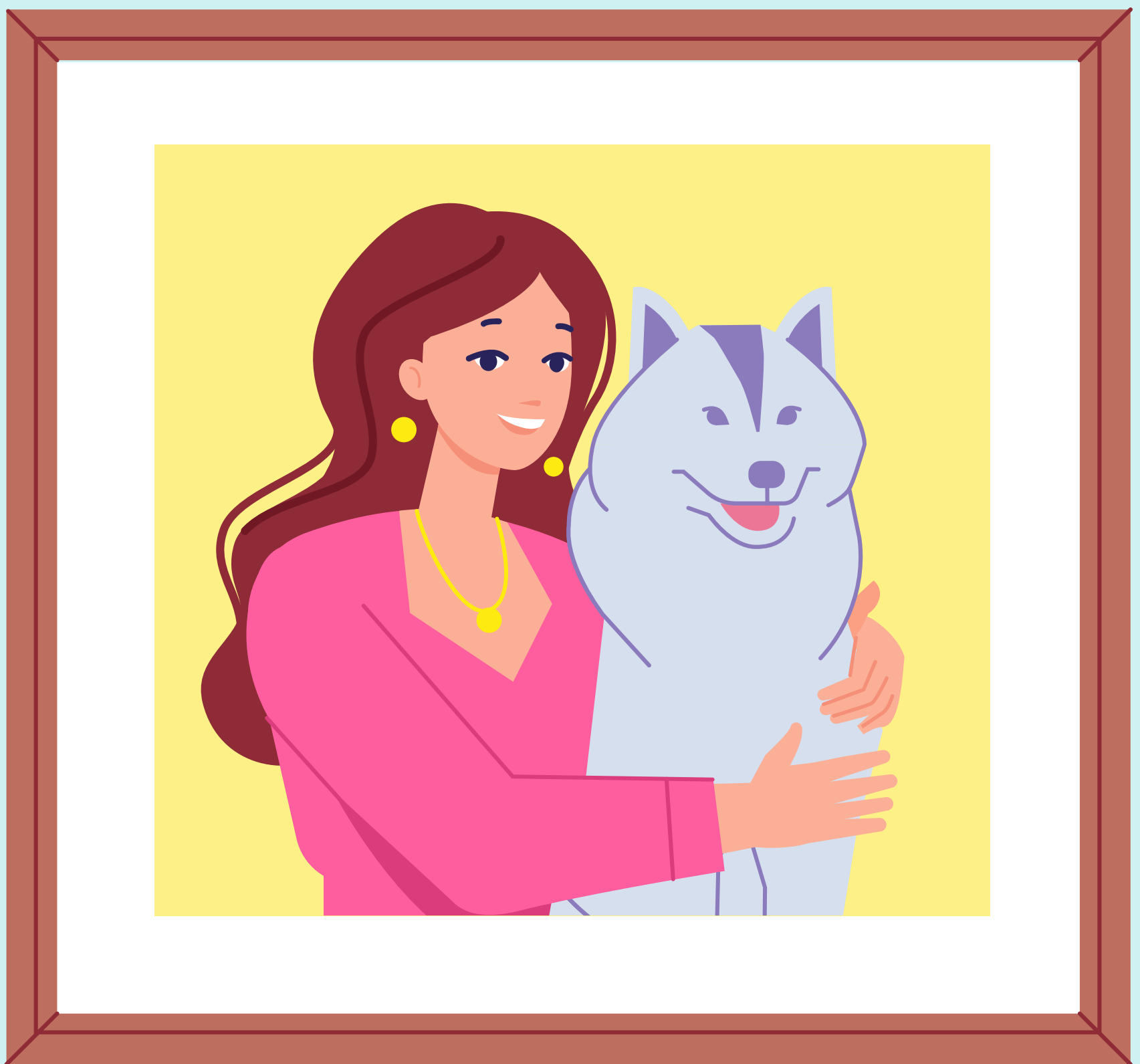
Emergency Contacts

Have a list of veterinary offices, animal shelters, and boarding facilities outside your immediate area that can shelter animals in emergencies.



PHOTOS WITH YOUR PET

Photos with your pet (useful for proving ownership in the absence of physical records when reclaiming a rescued animal).



A photograph can serve as documentation of ownership and may assist in finding a lost pet.



Photos can capture unique features that are useful for identifying a lost or missing pet.

