



**evacuation
important items in box
a woman with child says
you had more time than we did
important item holds hand**

i had to evacuate my home during the wildfires of 2007. i met a fellow evacuee in the elevator of the hotel. her circumstances were much more dire than my own, she from a place being engulfed in flames. i was carrying a box of important papers and she commented on the fact that i must have had more time to get out than she did. she held tightly to her young daughters hand. this tanka is for her, and all others that have to realize, sometimes in a matter of seconds, what is important to them. i hope that woman and child made it back to their home safely. i hope everyone does.