



Important Documents

Preparedness Checklist

When disaster strikes, safety comes first. After the danger passes, having financial, medical, and contact records ready will speed up recovery. Safeguarding these documents now ensures access to essential information and reduces stress. Also, consider which priceless personal items you'd want to protect or take if you had to evacuate suddenly.

Secure electronic copies on a password-protected flash drive, external hard drive, fireproof safe, or a secure cloud service. Also, plan which personal items to protect or take if you must evacuate.



Safeguard Important Documents



Personal Identification Documents

Consider the documents needed to verify your identity, household members (including children and pets), and relationships. These may include:

Vital records: Birth, marriage, divorce, adoption, and child custody papers

Identification: Passport, driver's license, Social Security card, green card, military ID

Pet records: Ownership papers and identification tags



Legal & Financial Documentation

If a disaster impacts your home or income, essential documents will be needed for insurance claims and government assistance.

Housing: Lease, mortgage, home equity documents, deed

Vehicle: Loan details, VIN, registration, title

Financial Obligations: Utility bills, credit cards, student loans, alimony, child support, elder care, and automatic payments

Financial Accounts: Checking, savings, debit cards, retirement, and investments

Insurance Policies: Homeowners, renters, auto, life, flood, appraisals, photos, and inventory lists

Income Sources: Pay stubs, government benefits, alimony, child support

Tax Records: Federal/state returns, property tax, vehicle tax

Estate Planning: Will, trust, power of attorney



Medical Documents

Health Coverage: Insurance (health/dental), Medicare, Medicaid, VA benefits

Medical Records: Medication list, immunizations, allergies, prescriptions, medical equipment, pharmacy details

Legal & Care Plans: Living will, medical power of attorney, caregiver contracts

Disability Documentation

Healthcare Contacts: Doctors, specialists, dentists, pediatricians, veterinarians



Household Contacts

Work Contacts: Employers, supervisors

Education Contacts: Schools, teachers, administrators

Community Connections: Houses of worship, social service providers, homeowner associations

Home Repair Services: Utilities, plumbers, roofers, carpenters, electricians



Keepsakes

Irreplaceable Mementos: Family photos, keepsakes, and sentimental items

Valuable Possessions: Jewelry, artwork, and collectibles