

Emergency Document Bag

When and where a disaster might strike is impossible to predict. You might have only a few minutes or a couple hours' notice to gather your family, take what you can and make your way to a safe location. By creating an Emergency Document Bag, you'll have all of your important documents and files ready to go whenever you need to leave home in a hurry.

An Emergency Document Bag is made up of your most important and irreplaceable papers, photos, mementos and a backup of your computer. It's best to keep these items in plastic, Ziploc bags. We recommend you use the two-gallon bags as they will easily protect and secure most of your folders, files and papers. Put the bags in a waterproof and fireproof lockbox. If you don't have one, we recommend you pick one up, or consider double-bagging these valuables.

Imagine how hard life would be after a disaster without insurance papers, birth certificates and your computer files. To protect your family from that nightmare, your Emergency Document Bag should include copies of:

- Social security cards, birth certificates or proof of citizenship
- List of important phone numbers (family, friends, etc.)
- Passports
- Medical records, x-rays, benefits, documents
- List of medications with dosages, doctors' phone numbers
- Duplicate prescriptions from doctor
- Immunization records
- Health insurance information
- Insurance documents (homeowner, renter, life, flood)
- Home or other property deeds, leases, mortgages etc
- Inventory of possessions and their value
- Vehicle Insurance documents
- Vehicle titles, leases, loan documents, etc.
- Financial statements (bank accounts, tax returns, etc.)
- Recent bills (power, water, etc.)
- Wills
- Current family photos; current pet photos
- Paperwork for your pets (medical records, registration, etc.)
- Backup computer files (on FLASH DRIVE, CD, DVD, etc.)
- Important keys
- Other items depending on your personal situation