

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:

- ✓ Apartment and condo leases
- ✓ Home or other property deeds (mortgages, etc.)
- ✓ Estate documents
- ✓ Homeowner's or renter's insurance documents
- ✓ Wills
- ✓ Life insurance policies
- ✓ Inventory of possessions and their value
- ✓ List of important phone numbers (family, friends, etc.)
- ✓ Flood insurance documents
- ✓ Vehicle titles, leases, loan documents, etc.
- ✓ Financial statements (accounts, checks, tax returns, etc.)
- ✓ Stocks and bonds
- ✓ Copies of recent bills (power, water, etc.)
- ✓ Government financial assistance award letters
- ✓ Birth certificates or proof of citizenship
- ✓ Social Security cards
- ✓ Employment contracts or other legal documents
- ✓ Medical records, x-rays, benefits documents, etc.
- ✓ Education reports (report cards, acceptance letters)
- ✓ Passports
- ✓ Duplicate prescriptions from doctor
- ✓ Backup computer files (on a CD, DVD, etc.)
- ✓ Paperwork for your pets (medical records, registration, etc.)
- ✓ Copies of important keys