

November 2019: PREPAREDNESS TIP OF THE MONTH

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Suppose you have survived a disaster. Your home may be a wreck; you may be in a shelter or even the hospital. How do you prove what your prescriptions are? Do you have your insurance information? How about the names and contact info for your doctors? What about later- your home insurance information to file for a claim? Is it all on your computer? But, there may not be electric power to run your computer. Is it in a bank vault? Will the bank be open?

What can you do to make a difference before such an event?

The answer is to make sure that you have copies of all your important documents and put them where they can be found. Some people have purchased a portable fireproof document safe to keep in the garage or even in their car. Otherwise, a copy for your go-bag in a clear plastic bag is an alternative. And, tell your neighbors where to locate that information. Or maybe also tell them where a second copy is kept in your home.

What are those important documents that you may wish to have copied?

- Name, address, phone number, alternate phone number, and email address
- Family contact people and their information if different from yours
- Out of town/state emergency contact(s)
- Driver's license, passport
- Credit cards
- Medicare cards, insurance cards
- Home insurance info
- Medicine list/allergies/medical tags (eg. diabetic, blood thinners)
- Cash (there may be no credit card use and no ATM's working)

And don't forget to update the IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS list as you add or delete new meds, as contacts or other information changes.