

DOCUMENTS

You WILL Need



In case of a disaster, in addition to emergency supplies, you will need various documents to reestablish your life. Remember that documents have various levels of importance which determines how they are stored and how long they are kept. Wherever you keep the original documents, be it a bank's safety deposit box, a fire-water proof home safe or a shoe box, copies of your important documents need to be kept in several locations.

When a disaster or sudden emergency occurs, one set of your documents needs to be in a convenient place. You may have to unexpectedly vacate your home and not be able to return. You may not have power to use your devices. This is why you need a document "grab and go" kit.

Besides the paper copies in your document "grab and go" kit, duplicate your information on computer backup disks or the cloud. A good practice is to take photos of your possessions and documents with your cell phone and file them where they can be retrieved. This provides proof needed for insurance claims. Don't forget to have a written list of your passwords so you can access the data on a computer when power is restored.



Here are some specific documents you might include:

✓ **FAMILY** Birth certificates, marriage/ divorce/ adoption papers, Social Security cards, passports, military records, driver's licenses, pet IDs, along with photographs of family and pets (to help find each other). In a disaster, replacing destroyed documents could be difficult. Also carry the name of an out-of-state family contact person and their email address so our HAM radio team can send them short messages via computer after a disaster.



✓ **FINANCIAL** Tax information, financial account numbers, income data (like pay stubs), insurance information, loan documents, information about bills and obligations. Compile a list of all monthly obligations with the account numbers and contact information for your kit. In recovering from a disaster, you still have financial responsibilities and need information to deal with them.



✓ **LEGAL** Will or living will, power of attorney, trust documents, titles and deeds to property you own, health directive, naturalization/citizenship documents. Share your data with a trusted person. During a serious emergency, you do not want to reconstruct your end-of-life plans. Try to consider all possible problems you might encounter in an emergency.



✓ **MEDICAL** Insurance information, list of medical providers, medications and suppliers, immunization records, allergy information, glasses/contact lens prescriptions & other crucial medical records. If someone other than your usual health professional needs to assist you, good information gives them good tools to work with.



✓ **VIAL of LIFE** The Vial of Life contains a list of the medical information on each family member so first responders will have the data they need to help you. After you fill out the medical information form, put the form in the Vial of Life and place the Vial of Life in your refrigerator door where it can be seen. Don't forget to include a Pet Medical Info form. Keep your information current. To obtain a Vial of Life, contact scpdeoc@gmail.com



Are you ready?