

## Preparing for Emergencies

Emergencies will take their toll on you both physically and emotionally. We can minimize the trauma better if we organize and plan ahead of time. Doing so does take time and effort, but in talking with individuals who have weathered the storm, taking steps ahead of time can put you more in control and therefore, more at ease. Although this list is not everything, having these items organized and in place can make a difference for you and your family.

### PERSONAL/BUSINESS ITEMS

Prepare two copies of the following items; one for at your home and a second for another location (safe deposit box, another family member's home)

- Your Estate Plan
- Identification of each individual
  - Passports
  - Birth, marriage and death certificates
  - Social Security Cards
  - Other (citizenship, naturalization papers, etc)
- Health Care information
  - Account information
  - Listing of your physicians
  - Current copies of prescriptions (drug, eyeglasses, etc.)
- Credit Cards
  - Copy of each credit card and accounts
- Bank Accounts and investments
  - Copy of each bank account
- Tax information
  - Copy of your tax bill statement. This would include your property description number.
- Utility information
  - Copy of each of your accounts
- Income
  - Retirement accounts
  - Pay stub information
- Home / Auto Insurance
  - Copy of your accounts
  - Video or pictures of the interior of your home and its contents.
- Jewelry
  - Copies of valuations and pictures

## THINGS to TAKE during an Evacuation

- Personal/Business Items
- For each room in your home, photograph/video the contents of your home. Create an inventory of items you'd want to take should you need to be evacuated quickly.
- Additional items to take with you (plan for a minimum of 3 days).
  - Medicines.
  - Baby food, formulas, clothes.
  - Credit cards, checkbook, cash.
  - Clothing, shoes, personal needs.
  - Glasses, contacts.
  - Batteries, flashlights, radios.
  - First aid kit.
  - Phone books (your personal and perhaps the district phone books we have)
  - Keepsakes.
  - Communication items such as your laptop, cell phones, Blackberry, camera, and the chargers for each of these.
  - Water and food supplies.

### Things to think about:

- Make sure you have a plan on where you will end up as a family.
- Make sure you use resources that can help you to communicate with family and friends. Email is huge! Create "lists" on your email of people who you need to keep in touch with so it's easier to convey information.
- Have cell phone numbers on all people you are trying to keep in touch with.
- Many times during a disaster, phone calls cannot be processed into the involved area, although the individual in the disaster area may be able to call out of state. If you have an out of state relative or friend, make them the "contact point" for people to get information on you.
- Don't wait until the last second. Remember that our roads are limited. If you have a trailer/camper, get that to a destination that could be helpful to you later.

- If you have a laptop, create under “Favorites” media locations that will help you to keep posted on the affected area: city and county law enforcement, city and county fire departments, local newspapers, any place that you will find updates. Don’t rely on a television access for your information.