

## Be Financially Prepared for a Natural Disaster

A natural disaster can strike with little to no warning. You may know how to secure your property and stock up on food, but financial preparedness is also important. Taking the time to identify, collect and update your personal and financial records and documents will help you be prepared before a potential disaster strikes.



### Gather Documents

Make copies of financial information and identification and store in a safe, accessible place:

- Birth, marriage and death certificates
- Immunization records
- Latest income tax
- Custody & divorce records
- Deeds & titles
- Wills
- Passports
- Stocks & bond certificates
- Social security cards



### Flood Proof Items

Consider placing items in a safe deposit box. Safe boxes are manufactured to be highly “resistant” to flooding. Place jewelry and photocopies of important documents in a water-tight bag. Keep a list of the contents and photos of stored items. You can also upload digital copies of important documents to a secure cloud environment.



### Account Information

Have contact information and account numbers available for your financial institutions, insurance companies and utilities. If you depend on regular benefits, switching to electronic payments and e-statements is a simple way to ensure access to funds in the event postal service is disrupted.



### Insurance Coverage

Conduct an annual insurance checkup to make sure you have adequate coverage and understand exclusions. Don't forget coverage for your car and remember that standard homeowners insurance does not cover flood insurance, which requires a 30-day waiting period to take effect.



### Monetary Preparedness

Set aside an emergency fund and make sure the funds are easily accessible. Anticipate initial out-of-pocket disaster expenses for lodging, food and gas. Keep cash on-hand, since outages may restrict access to ATMs and limit credit card usage.



### After the Storm

Keep any receipts for temporary living expenses and inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes. If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.

Questions about how to better prepare your financial information for an unforeseen disaster?  
Give us a call or stop by the office. We are always happy to help.