

Financial First Aid Kit



To be prepared for a disaster, take precautions to stay both physically safe and financially secure. **L.A. Controller Ron Galperin** offers these tips to help you build a Financial First Aid Kit.

BE ABLE TO ACCESS MUST-HAVE DOCS

- **ID:** Birth certificates, social security cards, passports, citizenship papers, military ID
- **Financial:** Tax returns, stock certificates, investment records and accounts
- **Healthcare:** Immunization records, prescription info, insurance cards
- **Family:** Marriage licenses, divorce decrees, and custody or adoption papers
- **Estate planning:** Wills, trusts, funeral instructions
- **Insurance:** Policy info
- **Benefits:** Employment and government benefits docs
- **Home and car:** Proof of ownership, mortgage documents and vehicle deeds
- **Contracts:** Employment, rental and business
- **Business:** Recent tax and payroll returns
- **Appraisals:** Values of jewelry, collectibles, antiques and artwork
- **Pets:** License info and recent medical records

KEEP DOCS IN TWO LOCATIONS

All must-have documents should be kept in two locations: at home and online.

Online: Keep copies of docs online or digitally.

Home Box: Keep a fireproof, lockable box large enough to store your docs, but light enough to carry. Seal everything in a plastic bag to prevent water damage.

CONSIDER THESE TECH TOOLS

- **Cell phone:** Keep your most important phone numbers with you at all times.
- **USB flash drive:** Copy important files and keep the drive with you.
- **Online bill-pay:** Stay current without carrying a checkbook.
- **Cloud storage:** Store important docs, photos and videos online.
- **Password manager:** Protect docs with only one password to remember.

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