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*Listening, learning,
and living together:
it's the science of life.*

Disaster Planning: Important Papers¹

Donna Davis²

As we were made keenly aware this fall, disasters are a part of life. While in Florida, we were dealing with hurricanes, throughout the country people face disaster, whether hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, fire, or a terrorist attack. Floridians became familiar with the hurricane preparedness strategies, including taking care of their property and how to handle life without electricity for prolonged periods. What many people didn't realize is that financial preparation is another key to survival and to cleaning up after the event.

To start, it's important to know where your family records and valuable documents are and be able to pick them up and take them with you, if you must evacuate. Purchase a packet, folder, briefcase or other carrying case for these important documents. These documents include birth, adoption, marriage, and death certificates, as well as passports, deeds, leases, insurance policies, Social Security records, contracts, wills, trusts, and ownership papers.

If you have access to a scanner, you may want to scan your papers and documents to a computer disk and keep it in the carrying case. Leave the original in a separate storage place. You may also want to videotape the contents of your home to supplement your

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household inventory. If you use a software package to keep track of your finances, you may want to keep a back-up copy with your "on the go" papers. These quick steps can save valuable time when picking up the pieces of an unexpected disaster.

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To listen to the radio broadcast:

http://www.radiosource.net/radio_stories/disasterplan.mp3

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