

Personal Documents

Why You Should Carry Important Personal Documents in Emergencies

In an emergency, access to digital records or official services may be disrupted. Carrying essential personal documents can help you **prove your identity**, **receive medical care**, **access emergency assistance**, and **coordinate with authorities or relief organizations**.

It's recommended to keep physical or securely stored digital copies (e.g. on a USB drive or encrypted cloud storage) of the following:

- **Identification:** Passport, national ID, driver's license
- **Medical records:** Allergy lists, chronic conditions, vaccination records, prescriptions
- **Emergency contacts:** Names, phone numbers, addresses of family or trusted contacts
- **Insurance documents:** Health, travel, and property insurance cards or policies
- **Financial access info:** Bank contact numbers, copies of essential cards (avoid full card numbers)
- **Legal papers:** Power of attorney, guardianship orders, or custody documents if applicable

Store these documents in a **waterproof pouch or folder** that's easy to grab in case of evacuation. Include both **originals (if safe)** and **photocopies**.

Having these documents with you ensures **smoother access to services**, supports your **recovery process**, and avoids **delays or complications** when you may already be under stress.