

ESP**FAMILY STEPS
TO SURVIVAL**

Emergency Cash and Important Documents



WHY?

Stash some cash!

After a damaging earthquake, it won't be "business as usual." Banks and ATM's might be closed for an indefinite period, so your money in the bank will stay there.

Include in your earthquake kit a sufficient amount of cash to get you through the emergency period. You'll need cash to purchase food, gas and other emergency supplies. Small bills—ones, fives and tens—are best.

Be sure you also include plenty of change to call your out-of-state contact from a public phone. (Public phone lines are among the first to be restored after a disaster.) You also can use your calling card to make the call.

You'll also need insurance policies, birth certificates and other vital records after a damaging earthquake or another disaster. Take steps NOW to protect them. The reverse side of this Focus Sheet includes examples of documents you should have and suggestions on how to safely store them.

These are only suggestions for preparing your family. Use discretion and common sense in your preparations.

Flyer compliments of:

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



STEP 6

Important Documents

After a damaging earthquake, you'll need vital personal documents and information for insurance claims and other matters. Keep the following items and documents and/or copies of them in a safe deposit box, freezer or another safe place:

- Social security cards
- Birth certificates
- Marriage and death records
- Drivers' licenses
- Credit cards
- Insurance policies
- Recent income tax returns
- Mortgage or rental receipts
- Employment paycheck stubs
- Deeds
- Stocks and bonds
- Savings and checking account books
- Documentation of valuables
- Computers
- Stereo systems
- Televisions
- Jewelry
- Cars
- Cameras

Video or photo documentation will facilitate insurance claims.

- Wills
- Health history, allergies, blood types
- Recent photos of family members for identification purposes

Storage Tips

Several options for safely storing valuables and important documents are available to you, including the following:

- Fireproof storage box or safe deposit box
- Freezer (make sure you tightly seal documents in a freezer bag before placing them in the freezer)
- The home of your out-of-state contact (send only copies of documents, not the originals)

Quick Reference

Complete and use the form provided below as a quick, pocket reference about vital information and documents.

Name: _____	
SS #: _____	
Auto Insurance Policy #: _____	
Home Insurance Policy #: _____	
Health Insurance Policy#: _____	
Company: _____	Phone: _____
Family Members	Social Security Number
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Sources for this document included the FEMA publication "Are You Ready? Your guide to disaster preparedness."

ESP Family Steps to Survival



This action sheet is produced as part of the Earthquake Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase individual and home earthquake preparedness. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and representatives from Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties assist in the development of campaign materials and coordination of the campaign.