

Are you prepared for the unexpected, and the surprises it can bring?

In recent months, many life changing events have occurred, are you prepared for what life and Mother Nature have to bring?

Ask yourself, if disaster hit tomorrow how prepared are you?

Most important, do you have a Last Will and Testament?

Life Insurance?

Have you talked to your family, children about your needs if something were to happen to you?

Do you have “cash” on hand if you were unable to get to a bank or had to leave in a hurry?

Do you have any elderly family members who need special care?

Do you own pets?

Start planning today, it's never too late or too soon.

Here are some helpful tips to prepare you in case of an emergency or disaster. Obtain a safe deposit box (visit your local bank for fees and sizes) or invest in a fireproof safe (Walmart, Target, or Sam's Club are a few stores that carry inexpensive safes).

The following is a list of items that you will want to keep in a safe place; wills, mortgage papers, investments, insurance policies, medical policies, passports, birth certificates, marriage certificates, divorce decrees, social security cards and valuable jewelry (be sure to have multiple copies of each, originals should be kept in the safe deposit box).

In addition to having important papers on hand, have an emergency supply kit. The kit should contain the following: flashlight, extra batteries, battery operated radio, signal flare, blanket (s), bottled water, ready to eat food, extra set of clothes, matches, current atlas, extra sets of keys, first aid kit, keep an extra supply of prescription medication, eyeglasses or contacts, travel pillow, mini toiletries, paper towels or baby wipes, manual can opener, important phone numbers and directions to family or friends. Don't forget your cash and cell phone. Remember each family member will need their own change of clothes. If you have small children don't forget diapers, food, bottles, medications and baby wipes.

Did you remember to pack for your pets? Pets should have their own emergency supply kit. Include, bowl (s), food, toys, water, leash, collar, medication if applicable and a blanket to keep warm.

Paris Love is a Professional Organizer serving Metro Atlanta and the Gulf Coast. Paris has written articles for BrownSkin Magazine, OnlineOrganizing, Home Base Quarterly and the Covington News. Currently, Paris is passing on her passion for organizing by helping others live an organized and clutter-free life™. For additional tips or information visit www.organizewithlove.com.