

Important Documents

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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)