

Essential Family History Preparedness  
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## How To Protect and Save Valuable Possessions From An Earthquake

By Scott M. Haskins

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**This specialized niche emergency preparedness/disaster planning info for protecting and saving valuable personal items is the only expertise available to you and your office!**

**What is of most value to your family history? What if these items were badly damaged or lost in a disaster?:**

- financially valuable collectibles,
- historically valuable memorabilia,
- emotionally important keepsakes,
- intellectual and creative property,
- important gifts,
- important documents,
- certificate, diplomas, awards,
- submittals and project plans,
- legal docs, prescriptions
- insurance papers and back up documentation

**How would your home be affected after a disaster if you lost these items?**



**Four Things, in Short,  
To Do To Prepare:**

1. “Shake Proof” your home and office.
2. Know ahead of time what is important to “grab ‘n go”?
3. Make copies of important items and keep them off site.
4. Upgrade your storage of important items.



A disaster may be when your water heater leaks (is it strapped down?!) and soaks into all your cardboard boxes, photo albums, scrapbooks and legal papers. You don't need Mother Nature to have a full blown disaster! You can make one all by yourself! What kind of documents, certificates, legal papers, prescriptions do you need to preserve and save in order to bounce back from a disaster?

Framed art and certificates, awards and collectibles, figurines and client's gifts, photos and books... what can you do to protect yourself and your items? This pamphlet provides easy to follow steps to give you peace of mind and save important, treasured and valuable personal items in the office and at home.



Humans are hard wired with these two primeval instincts: One, to save, gather and collect “stuff” you relate to and that documents your life and memories. Two, the fear of losing that valuable/meaningful stuff.

Then “it” hits. Scott M. Haskins, preservation specialist and disaster response expert for 35 years says,

After everyone is safe and accounted for, the biggest reason people mourn after a disaster is for their lost stuff... memories, keepsakes, personal treasures. They lose their past intellectual property and lose their edge. These losses can take a serious toll on emotions.

Here are 5 tips Haskins says will give your stuff a better chance of surviving. This niche information is an essential element of a family's disaster plan. See if the essence of being prepared in these areas is not essential to your well being, and the emotional stability of your loved ones:

1. Make copies of important documents and photos and keep them someplace else (out of the area). Electronic copies are not archival and need to be reformatted every so many years.
2. Think for a moment about where you will store important, irreplaceable items! Avoid areas that get too hot or are at risk by high humidity.

3. Archival “page protectors” can be found at an office supply store. They won't say “archival” on the packaging, but the plastic they all use these days is all good. Important photos, documents, certificates etc can be placed in a binder for your grab 'n go items.
4. An anchor wax is a great product for holding down items when the building starts to shake.
5. Don't put things in a cardboard box on the floor of the garage! Use a Tupperware like container. The plastic is archival. Keep it up off the floor.

What is peace of mind worth to you? Haskins promises you, “If you will do even one of these tips, you'll save yourself much heartache later.” Do something for your peace of mind. Be prepared.

Tips and suggestions were taken from national best seller, “How To Save Your Stuff From A Disaster.”

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