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September is month to think about being ready for emergencies

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September is Emergency Preparedness Month and a good time to evaluate what you should take with you if you're forced to leave your home.

If the call comes for you to evacuate, several important documents should go out the door with you, said Laura Wallis of Prepared Binder.

``Definitely, your birth certificate, your passport if you have one, a copy of your driver's license, your Social Security card, any death certificates for family members, adoption papers, divorce papers, trust or will documents."

And, don't forget your medicines, Wallis said.

``You need your prescriptions, you need your doctors' names, you need pharmacy names, you need your bank information."

Get your crucial items together, keep them in one place and make sure everyone in the family knows where they are," Wallis said.

``If you have to evacuate, you don't want to be running around the house, looking in 15 different places for the birth certificates and the passports and the bank records and hoping you have it all."

Emergency Preparedness Month is a good time to get your kit together and make plans, she said.

``Most people say you should have a 72-hour kit at all times. Personally, I can't keep it setting by the back door. And if I wasn't at home when somebody needed to evacuate, my husband would not know where all the parts of that 72-hour kit are."

Wallis suggests people prepare a folder or binder that contains emergency instructions and all important documents and coach family members on where the folder is kept. • [Emergency Preparedness Tips](#)