

# SAVING PERSONAL ITEMS: Keepsakes, Documents, Etc.

*Disasters happen anytime and anywhere.*

*When disaster strikes, it is easier to cope when you are prepared. Get Ready! Saginaw County recommends having plans in place for keepsakes and important documents should you need to evacuate your home.*

## Personal Items to Consider Before an Emergency Occurs

- Family photos – consider storing negatives or memory cards at a location outside your home such as a safe deposit box
- Valuable jewelry – store these items together so they are easy to locate
- Irreplaceable heirlooms and favorite collectibles – can they be moved easily and how much space will they take in your car
- Take your laptop or disconnect your PC if you're leaving home

## Important Documents to Keep Secure or Take With You

- Drivers licenses and passports
- Social security cards
- Birth, marriage and death certificates
- Immunization records
- Insurance policies
- Wills, contracts, vehicle titles and property deeds
- One bank statement for each account, including credit cards
- Record of stocks, bonds or retirement accounts

### Tips for success...

- If you live in a flood-prone area, make sure you have adequate flood insurance to reduce your risk of loss.
- Take pictures or make a video of your home possessions for insurance purposes. Include both the interior and exterior of your home.
- To protect your computer, always use unusual passwords, install virus protection and an internet firewall, and regularly backup critical data. Regularly install security patches from your software vendors.
- Store important documents in a waterproof, portable container. Consider using a fire-proof, portable safe deposit box.
- Remember to close and lock your windows and doors if you have to evacuate.

