



# Preparing Financially for a Disaster

By their very nature, disasters often strike without warning.

Whether it be a fire, flood or hailstorm, it's a good idea to have your personal finances in order before an unexpected emergency knocks at your door.

Virginia CPAs offer these tips on preparing for a disaster.

## 1. Properly insure your property.

At a minimum, buy full replacement or replacement cost insurance. It's important to note that flood damage is not covered by homeowners' policies.

## 2. Have cash on hand.

Cash can pay for food, hotel rooms or whatever you may need if your home is uninhabitable.

## 3. Safeguard important papers.

It will be easier to pick up the pieces following a disaster if you have safeguarded important documents.

## 4. Organize other records.

If you must evacuate your home suddenly, keep key records handy.

## 5. Take steps to protect your belongings.

Before disaster strikes, consider building a tornado-safe room, learning how to shut off your utilities and replacing a roof's wood shingles with a material that is more fire resistant.

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