

RAYMOND JAMES®



Peter L. Mendall, CFP®  
Kimberley J. Mondoñedo, CFP®  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™

Dear Friends,

What's in your emergency kit?

When it comes to unpredictable weather, “rain, rain, go away” isn't exactly a plan. Many of us have emergency kits in place for when Mother Nature riles up, but let's take time to commit to refreshing our kits with newer food stores and batteries, and maybe some things we didn't think about before the pandemic.

Some of the same weather-related guidelines still apply, of course. Have a safe family meeting place and a method of communication; food and water to last your family at least three days (don't forget your pets); and full gas tanks.

Bolster these basics with the items below and refer to your local emergency management office and FEMA for area-specific suggestions to include in your disaster kit.

### **Safety**

- Flashlights and batteries
- First-aid kit, including pain relievers and a week's worth of prescription medicines
- Whistles
- Matches or fire starters in waterproof container
- Face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes

### **Personal**

- Moist towelettes, toilet paper and trash bags
- Personal hygiene items, including bar soap, toothbrush/toothpaste and feminine products
- Copies of identification as well as important personal documents, including login information to electronic health records, insurance policies and bank records. Physical copies should be stored in a waterproof, portable container
- A list of key contacts and their phone numbers

- Comfort items to help weather the emotional storm

## **Logistics**

- A wrench or pliers
- Manual can opener
- Local maps
- Cellphones and chargers (consider adding an external power bank)
- Cash on hand could be necessary if banks and ATMs are down
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Battery-operated radio

The main lesson of 2020 may be that we weren't quite as well-prepared as we'd thought given the giant curveball lobbed our way. But there is time to put some better plans in place.

We hope you don't have to deal with much more in an already tumultuous year, but please know that your financial plan was designed to help weather even unusual storms, and we're here to help you navigate these changes if needed. We hope you and yours remain safe and healthy come what may.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Mendall, CFP®

Kimberley J. Mondoñedo, CFP®



T 207.621.2626 // F 207.621.2727

320 Water Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Augusta, ME 04330

[www.raymondjames.com/maineretirementcenter](http://www.raymondjames.com/maineretirementcenter)

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