

**KINGS COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT'S
PREPAREDNESS FACT OF THE WEEK**

**HOW DO YOU STASH YOUR EMERGENCY CASH?
*Thanks Grandma!***



With schools closed for the summer and graduations come and gone, it's that time once again for summer travels. Do you have your "emergency stash of cash" ready? When setting aside money for emergencies, I think we could agree that there are many different levels of "emergencies".

For one reason or another, we all have motives for stashing some cash. Some of those include special purchases, going back to school, vacations, or, for those unexpected little emergencies I like to call "uh oh" moments. No matter

what your reason, you should always have a stash plan in place. Make sure that when you have to tap into it, that you also plan to replace what has been taken out, even if your little emergency this summer is having to take your family to Superior Dairy on the spur of the moment to satisfy that homemade ice cream craving. Hey, that counts as an emergency, doesn't it?

When planning your vacation, whether big or small, don't forget to include that extra cash on hand. As I have mentioned in the past, having debit and/or credit cards alone may not be enough, especially if you encounter a problem while on vacation or driving in a rural area. When planning for your travels, try to think of those scenarios where those cards may not work. Yes, believe it or not, it can happen! There is a seemingly endless amount of possibilities that might present themselves when you are away from home. Would *you* be prepared? You might get lost in an unfamiliar area and use up more gas than you intended to. If you do find a gas station, they quite possibly may not accept credit cards.



You should always carry emergency cash while traveling even if it is just several rolls of quarters. A good idea would be to keep no less than \$30 to \$100 with you, but you might want to keep more emergency cash on hand, depending on your circumstances. For example, if you have a larger vehicle that doesn't get very good mileage and you have to take detours, or have trouble getting to where you are going, this may cause a miss-calculation in mileage vs. gasoline. A good way to make sure your emergency cash is available when you really need it is to use your credit or debit cards when traveling any time it is possible to do so. That way you will be more likely to

have your emergency cash fund for when you **REALLY** need it. If using your credit card instead of the debit, make sure you put all your receipts in a safe place (glove box or envelope) so that you can pay off what you charged. You wouldn't want to set yourself up for a "disaster" of financial worries.

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My grandma used to have a special “stash” of cash she would put into a container she called “the kitty”. This cash was mainly used for those extra things that came up during the year that she hadn’t planned for. As a little girl, I couldn’t understand why she called a container shaped like a farm animal a “kitty”, but hey, that was grandma; or so I thought. It wasn’t until I got older that I learned that the term “kitty” was that generation’s term for “rainy day cash stash”. Anyway, my grandma used to take in ironing (business people in our community would drop off any ironing they needed done) to bring in extra money while she raised me. Some of this money would go into the “kitty”. If I wanted to order books from the school’s Scholastic Book order, grandma would say, “We’ll have to get the money from the kitty.” That was my early exposure to setting funds aside for the unexpected, one I still use today with my family.

No matter what you are saving for, it’s important that you come up with your own system of setting funds aside for those “rainy days”. This system should be do-able and easy for you *and* your family to understand and follow. When I take money out, I like to document it on a piece of paper kept in the “kitty”. I document how much I borrowed and date it. That way I am reminded that I need to replace while continuing to add to it.

As for that farm animal “kitty” that belonged to my grandma; I have it today and share that story and its lesson with my kids. We use it to put our recycling money and extra change in. ***Thanks grandma!***



A FEW OTHER REASONS TO KEEP A STASH OF CASH

You can also keep a stash for “other” emergencies

- You are going out to dinner without the kids and they want to order a pizza to be delivered.
- You need a few extra bucks to fill the gas can for the lawn mower.
- Your friends come to your door unexpectedly to fundraise for a good cause and you don’t have any extra cash in your wallet.
- Your kids have been invited by their friends to go the mall, fair, or movies and you don’t have any extra cash to send them with.
- You are not feeling well and you need to send your kids or a neighbor to the store for 7-up, Motrin and soup.

Written by Elizabeth Hall

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