

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information,
contact: Julie Smith

Family Resource Management and Entrepreneurship Agent, Wildcat Extension District
juliesmith@ksu.edu (620) 238-0704

Make your List: The Importance of Household Inventory

If you are anything like me, you've accumulated a lot of "stuff" over the years. While I could list big ticket items in my home easily, I am not currently prepared to list all of my possessions in the case of a massive disaster such as a tornado, fire or even theft.

A comprehensive household inventory list is important for everyone – homeowners and renters alike - when it comes to getting the maximum amount on an insurance claim. If you've never compiled this inventory, the process can seem overwhelming. Today I'd like to share some tips with you as you start your own household inventory list.

- 1) Choose your format. You might want to start an excel spreadsheet or even invest in a program or app made to help with the inventory process. While technology makes it easier for adjustments and changes, know that the can even be compiled with just a pen and paper.
- 2) Concentrate on one room at a time. List all of the items in the room and note the approximate value. It's ok to group certain items together such as kitchen utensils or DVDs. It's important to also inventory important items that you store in smaller spaces such as closets and drawers.
- 3) Capture photos and video. Having electronic photos and video acts as powerful proof that you had the items in your home. You can save these in a folder with your inventory list for easy access
- 4) Make note of your more expensive valuables, some which may require riders on your insurance. Jewelry, guns, collectibles and higher-end electronics should be listed separately with as much information as you can include. Be sure to list the make, model, serial number, purchase date and multiple photographs if possible.

- 5) Keep multiple copies of your list. If your inventory is electronic, it is recommended to save your files to a cloud based file so that you are able to access it from anywhere. Other options are to save the information to a flash drive or make copies of physical lists. The copies should be stored in a safe place such as a fireproof safe or safe deposit box.

Once your initial list is complete, remember to keep it current with new purchases and include copies of your receipts if possible. I hope the household inventory list is something that you'll never have to use, but being prepared is well worth the time and effort. I'm off to start my list now, good luck to us all!

For more information, please contact Julie Smith, Family Resource Management and Entrepreneurship Agent, juliesmith@ksu.edu or by calling 620-238-0704.

###

K - State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer