Handout 2.2—Essential Records

NOTE: The left-hand column below indicates salvage priorities for essential records based on how quickly access will be required following an emergency.

now quickly access will be required following all emergency.		
PRIORITY FOR SALVAGE	ESSENTIAL RECORDS ARE RECORDS THAT:	EXAMPLES INCLUDE:
Priority 1: First 1–12 hours	Are necessary for emergency response	 Copy of emergency and/or Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan Infrastructure and utility plans Maps and building plans Emergency contact information
	Are necessary to resume or continue operations	 Delegations of authority Contracts and leases Payroll Prison, jail, and parole records Insurance records
Priority 2: First 12–72 hours	Protect the health, safety, property, and rights of residents	 Deeds, mortgages, land records Birth and marriage records Medical records Active court proceedings Education and military service records Voting records Professional licenses
	Would require massive resources to reconstruct	Geographic information systems dataTax records
Priority 3: After first 72 hours	Document the history of communities and families	Historical documentsPhotographsIdentity records
 Only a small percentage (typically, less than five percent) of all Government records are essential Value during an emergency makes a record essential As disruption time increases, more records become essential "Records" can be in many different formats, including paper or electronic 		ALL OTHER RECORDS

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