

## **Overview of Essential Records**

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Historical documents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

DIVISION OF ARCHIVES AND RECORDS - GOVERNMENT RECORDS SECTION

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