



For Immediate Release
April 1, 2015

Financial Preparedness Month

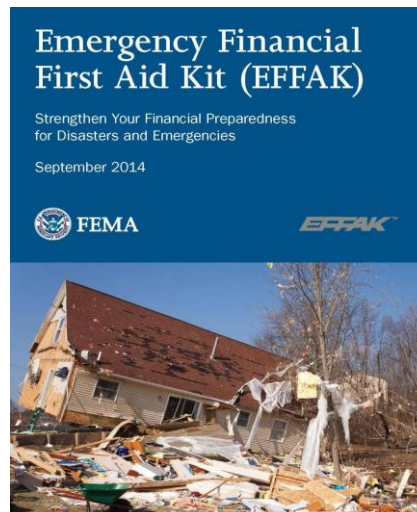


Photo Captions: Left: Wind damage on January 31, 2013 on Central Avenue, Memphis. Right: FEMA's free Emergency Financial First Aid Kit

Disasters can strike with little warning. You may have just seconds or minutes to react. The safety of your family and pets is your primary concern. But post-disaster....what will you need to recover and rebuild? The Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) encourages you to become financially prepared in April - **Financial Preparedness Month**.

SCOP Director Dale Lane stated, "Taking the time to get financially prepared now can give you and your family peace of mind that you will be able to recover and have a strong financial future after the disaster."

To assist you, the Federal Emergency Management Agency offers a free tool, the **Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK)**. This workbook is divided into four easy steps:

- **Compile:** Assemble documents and contacts for you and your family
- **Review:** Assure all policies and paperwork are accurate and up-to-date
- **Safeguard:** Store a paper and an electronic copy of your completed workbook
- **Update:** Once a year make any needed changes and updates

The four sections of key records and contact information the workbook requests include:

- **Household Identification:** IDs (photo, work, drivers license, military, pet), birth certificate, marriage license, social security, dental, passport, work and school contact
- **Financial / Legal Documentation:** House payment, utility bill, credit card, insurance policy, income, tax statement, estate planning
- **Medical Information:** Physician, pharmacy, Medicare card, immunization, prescription, disability, living will, power of attorney, veterinarian record
- **Household Contacts:** Family, landlord, medical professional, insurance agent, lawyer, neighbor, financial advisor, disability service provider, social services representative

As you gather documents, check off the ones you have, the ones you need, and those not applicable. Much of this documentation is helpful when applying for FEMA Disaster Assistance.

After the workbook is complete, you will have a comprehensive record that will speed the recovery process after a disaster. Safeguard the information by storing one copy in a safe deposit box away from your home and one copy electronically in a removable flash or external hard drive. Specific document copies should be kept in your disaster kit.

To order the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit, call the FEMA Publications Warehouse at 1.800.480.2520 or email FEMA-Publications-Warehouse@FEMA.gov. Ask for document #532. Or download the kit at www.ready.gov/financialpreparedness. A financial preparedness webinar is available at www.ready.gov/community-preparedness-webinar-series-financial-preparedness.

End of Release