



## For Immediate Release

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### Get Financial Information In Order Before A Disaster

Amid the chaos and uncertainty of a disaster, ensuring your financial documents are up-to-date, organized, and accessible can decrease anxiety and stress,” said Dale Lane, Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) Director. “During April, **Financial Literacy Month**, take the time to collect and secure your financial records so you will have the documentation you need to recover from a disaster.”

#### Financial Organizational Tips:

- ✓ Keep emergency cash or traveler’s checks in your disaster kit in case the ATMs are inaccessible.
- ✓ Enroll in [Go Direct](#) to minimize disruptions to receiving any federal benefits you may receive.
- ✓ Have an “emergency only” credit card with enough available credit to be used during a disaster. Give more than one family member an emergency credit card.
- ✓ Fill out the FEMA “**Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK)**.” A free financial tool, this booklet helps you identify important financial and legal documents, medical records, insurance information, rental and mortgage contracts, proof of employment, financial obligations, and creates contact lists to easily access during a disaster. Once you have completed the booklet, save it, and share it with family members. The EFFAK can also help you apply for FEMA disaster assistance benefits. It is available in English and Spanish. For the EFFAK on-line form, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ky4g98l>
- ✓ Wrap important documents and photos in a sealed plastic bag.
- ✓ Create a fire-safe, water-proof, locked records box that is easy to transport to include copies of financial and household papers.
- ✓ Use your cell phone, email, or a thumb drive as a back-up record keeper for account numbers and toll-free numbers for banks, credit card companies, mortgage and other loans.



**Resource:** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

**End of Release**