

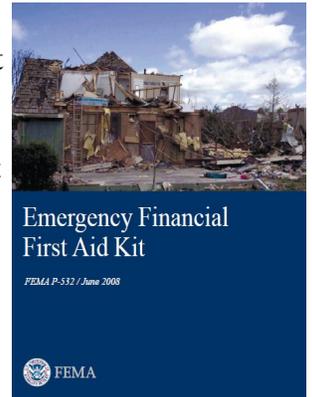
April 2014

Emergency Preparedness Pointers

Dollars And Sense In Preparedness Planning

April is National Financial Literacy Month. Financial planning should be a key component of everyone's overall disaster planning. Setting aside financial resources can help provide for immediate needs during a disaster while well organized and documented financial records can help speed the post-disaster recovery process. The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) helps simplify this process. It is designed to help people identify and organize key financial records by creating a quick reference file for these documents. The EFFAK was produced through a partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the HOPE Coalition America branch of Operation HOPE. For more information on the economic mission of this organization go to:

<https://www.operationhope.org/hope-coalition-america>



It's An Investment

The EFFAK will only be as good as the information that is in it. It takes time to complete, but like other financial matters, there is no pay-off without an investment. It can be filled out as an individual or as a household. If filling it out as a household it is important to include all joint and separate accounts and liabilities. Here are some tips from Operation HOPE regarding the process.

- 1 Complete all sections of the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit.
- 2 Review all the supporting documentation for accuracy and be sure the document is still in effect.
- 3 Once all documents are in order, make a copy of the completed EFFAK and relevant legal documents.
- 4 Keep the EFFAK in a safe place. Store a hard copy with all original documents and photographs in a safety deposit box. Make additional electronic copies (CD or portable drive); password protect all electronic copies and keep one set in the safety deposit box and another in the 72 hour kit.
- 5 Update the EFFAK whenever documents or other financial status changes. Review it at least once a year.

In an effort to make the process as easy as possible, a form-fillable PDF version of the EFFAK can be downloaded at: https://adacounty.id.gov/Portals/Accem/Doc/PDF/effak_english.pdf

Personal Disaster Preparedness Guide

HOPE Coalition America has created a companion planning tool to the EFFAK titled: Personal Disaster Preparedness Guide (PDPG). This guide walks the user through the process of developing an individual or family preparedness plan. It provides a format to gather information in the following areas:

- Medical Records and Contacts
- Work/School/Daycare Contacts
- Family Emergency Procedures
- Responder and Emergency Management Contacts
- Personal Property Inventory

This is another document that will require review and updating at least annually. The guide will only be as useful as the information is accurate. Again, for ease of use, a form-fillable PDF version of the PDPG can be downloaded at: https://adacounty.id.gov/Portals/Accem/Doc/PDF/pdpg_english.pdf

Family disaster planning can be made simpler by using these resources. They identify what information should be gathered and provide a format to store it in. The PDPG even includes a quick accounting sheet to help calculate a potential recovery budget for a household after a disaster. Taking the necessary steps for a successful recovery is as important as preparing to respond to the incident.

Learn more about emergency preparedness and response by attending the National County Government Month Open House. County and Red Cross response resources will be on display along with information booths.

When: Sat., April 26, 2014 from 12pm - 3pm Where: Ada County Courthouse, 200 W. Front St., Boise



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