



Are you prepared for an emergency?

This week, MMFCU was invited to participate in MassMutual's Resilience Fair. Focused on being prepared for emergencies both at home and at work, this fair aims to prepare its employees for emergency situations.

With so many unfortunate events going on throughout our country and around the world, many people were interested in more than our little giveaways. Genuine concern and an abundance of questions filled the room.

With that said, it has been requested that we share the tips from the fair on the website for everyone to see.

Scenario 1: You have 5 minutes notice

People (and fur babies) should be your priority. If it is safe and you have time, grab these hard-to-replace items and run:

- Wallet
- Keys
- Cell phone
- Computer back-up drive or flash drive

Scenario 2: You have 24 hours notice

The more time you have, the more stuff you can pack and rescue, so you'd need to avoid greed and pack just what you need.

- Everything from scenario ONE
- Safe deposit box/ Home safe
- Irreplaceable items: photo albums, keepsakes
- Clothing packed in a carry-on suitcase
- Items often uninsured in a policy (camera gear, jewelry, maybe a bike)

Resilience Tip #1: Get a fireproof safe for your home

- Hard copies of your important documents (IDs, birth certificates, passports, social security cards, key financial data, last year's tax return, medical records, home & life insurance policies, will, deed, etc.) Even better, put a copy of them on a backup drive.
- Backup drive and / or flash drive
- A small amount of cash. (It is important to have small bills on hand in case ATM's are down and banks are closed during a disaster - to purchase necessary supplies, fuel or food.)

Resilience Tip #2: Start an emergency Fund

- General rule of thumb is to put away at least three to six months' worth of expenses.
- Emergency savings are best placed in an interest-earning bank account (such as a money market or interest-earning savings account) that can be accessed easily without taxes or penalties.