

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (227 word count)

Publish/post the following article about disaster relief on your websites or other communication vehicles.

IRS can help when natural disasters strike



Try as we may, the one thing no one can control is the weather. When natural disasters such as, floods, tornadoes and hurricanes occur, families and businesses can often feel overwhelmed when faced with rebuilding their lives. IRS wants to help. Did you know that special tax law provisions may help you recover financially from [the impact of a federally declared disaster](#)? If you have damaged or lost property in a location declared by the federal government as a major disaster area, you may be able to get some money back from the IRS right now.

Additionally, depending on your circumstances, the IRS may grant you more time to file your return and pay your taxes. You could get a faster refund by electing to claim your losses from a federally declared disaster on your tax return for the previous year, usually by filing an [amended return](#). The due date for the amended return is the due date of the return for the year of the loss without extensions.

Check out the [Tax Relief in Disaster Situations](#) webpage to learn more about the latest disaster relief information. This page has helpful tax relief information for those affected by a disaster such as the Mississippi River flooding this spring, along with the April and May tornadoes.

Remember, when natural disasters strike, the IRS is here to help you.

NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are additional resources, including YouTube videos, you can share with your customers.

A sample tweet for use before a disaster strikes:

Check #IRS information on safeguarding financial and tax records before a disaster hits. <http://go.usa.gov/ZFj>

Sample tweets for use after a disaster:

Count on #IRSTaxRelief in the event of #NaturalDisasters. IRS stands ready to help <http://go.usa.gov/Bca>

Need help with IRS Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief? #IRS <http://go.usa.gov/Bca>

Note: You should ensure that the link below includes your affected area before using the below tweet.

#IRSTaxRelief for certain federally declared disasters <http://go.usa.gov/mtK>

You Tube Videos

Preparing for Disasters ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) - When disaster strikes, you want to be sure you're prepared. This video has tips for safeguarding important documents in preparation for an emergency.

Help For Disaster Victims ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) If you are the victim of a disaster that damaged or destroyed your property, the IRS may be able to help. Learn about the options available and what steps you can take to recover.

IRS.gov links

- [Preparing for a Disaster](#) - Some simple steps can help taxpayers and businesses protect financial and tax records in case of disasters.
- Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief for Individuals and Businesses – ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) - Special tax law provisions may help taxpayers and businesses recover financially from the impact of a disaster
- [Disaster Area Losses](#) – Agriculture Tax Tips - This tax tip discusses the special rules for when to deduct a disaster area loss and the abatement of interest on tax underpayments.