

# Disaster Preparedness: Property

Presented by: MRW Financial, Inc.

Prepared for:

## Protect Your Property

When it comes to your property, the best plan is to take steps to help avoid or minimize disaster-related damage.

Everyone should periodically test items such as smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers. Beyond this, the steps you may wish to take depend, to some degree, on the types of disasters that are most likely to occur where you live. For example:

- Hurricanes/tornadoes:** Install storm shutters, have a tornado safe room in your home, consult with professionals about such measures as anchoring your home to its foundation or strapping the roof to the frame of the building.
- Flooding:** Avoid buying or building a home in a flood plain or, alternatively, buy or build an elevated home. Consider moving furnaces and electrical panels from lower to upper levels in the house.
- Earthquakes:** Consult with professionals on earthquake-resistant construction. Bolt bookcases and tall/heavy furniture to walls. Keep cabinet doors shut with child-resistant latches.
- Wildfires:** Keep brush cleared away from your home. Use fire-resistant siding and roofing materials.

Regardless of your best efforts, you may still experience property damage as the result of a disaster. Make sure you have homeowner's insurance and that you understand what your policy will and will not cover. You may need to purchase separate flood or earthquake coverage, depending on where you live. If you don't already have it, consider some type of replacement cost coverage. Also, be certain that the amount of your homeowners' coverage keeps pace with the current cost of replacing your home.

Renters should consider purchasing renters' insurance to help pay for damaged, destroyed or stolen personal property.