

Recent La. flooding underscores importance of gathering, securing personal information

BOM joins with our communities in expressing deep sympathy over the recent devastating floods in south Louisiana. Families affected by this tragic event are in our thoughts and prayers, and we encourage everyone to continue contributing in any way possible to the recovery effort.

The disaster also serves as a stark reminder of the importance for preparation. As our own community witnessed with flooding earlier in 2016, tragedy can strike in the blink of an eye. Once the immediate danger passes, the ability to access your family's financial and medical information will be crucial to recovering from a crisis.

Please take time to safeguard your family's critical information.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency created a [checklist](#) that families can download and print. In addition to your driver's license and Social Security card, the list includes important financial records such as:

- Checking and savings accounts, debit cards, retirement and investment accounts
- Insurance policies, including homeowners, renters, auto, life and flood
- Appraisal information, along with photos and lists of valuable items
- Leases, rental agreements, mortgages and deeds
- Car loans, VIN numbers, registrations and titles
- Utility bills, credit cards, student loans and automatic payments
- Verification of income like pay stubs, government benefits, alimony and child support
- Tax statements, federal and state income tax returns, property tax and vehicle tax
- Estate planning, including wills, trusts and power of attorney documents

The FEMA checklist includes other important information that should be protected and suggestions for storing documents securely.

If you or a loved one needs help with obtaining financial records from BOM, please contact your local branch. For information on branch locations, hours and phone numbers, visit www.bofm.com.