

Farmers(R) Insurance Offers Identity Theft Protection Tips to Families Across America Who Face Natural Disasters

PRNewswire

Safety, food, clothing and shelter are the first things that are addressed when it comes to providing for a family or individuals who are affected by disasters. Today however, as millions of us face a year-round threat of natural disasters, Farmers Insurance asks that a fifth consideration be added to the list: Identity Theft.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20080605/LATH062>)

"Identity Theft is the fastest growing crime in America," notes Jeff Dailey, Farmers President of Personal Lines. "The last thing someone needs after surviving such a horrific ordeal, is some unscrupulous person committing identity theft on them and causing more pain and damages."

Farmers Insurance offers proactive tips on how to guard your identity prior to a disaster and afterward.

PRIOR:

- Plan and prepare for disasters and evacuations before they occur.
- Keep important documents (such as State ID's, Social Security Cards, Birth Certificates, immigration Papers, Marriage Licenses, Passports, Bank Accounts, Deeds, etc.) in a secure location that can be easily retrieved when evacuating.
- If you evacuate, be sure to take computers, cell phones and other electronics that may have personal information on them with you. Also, be sure these devices are password protected in case they must be left behind.
- Have a copy of important documents in a Safe Deposit Box or other secure location, away from your residence, in case you can not take your originals.

AFTER:

- Notify your credit card companies and financial institutions of any missing documents
- Call the credit bureaus and place a 90-day fraud alert to protect your credit files.
- If items are stolen, or misused, file a police report.
- Replace missing documents as soon as possible.
- Be cautious of fake scams trying to get information from you after a disaster.

Farmers insurance has developed comprehensive identity theft coverage called Identity Shield. Farmers Identity Shield helps you restore your identity after an identity fraud or theft. Those who have experienced Identity Theft know how hard it is to fix and how much time it takes," he added.

Dailey explained that Identity Shield includes a 24/7 advocate to guide and assist victims. An expert also is on call to answer any questions policyholders may have about identity theft. "There is much more, including assistance in replacing lost, stolen or damaged identification documents after a disaster," Dailey said.

For more information on identity theft and how to prevent it, contact your local Farmers agent or visit <http://www.farmers.com/>

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