

The Internal Revenue Service announced some key tax relief provisions to the victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

The IRS is providing temporary relief by postponing various tax deadlines that will allow individuals and businesses until Jan. 31, 2018 to file any returns and pay any taxes due. Those eligible for the extra time include:

- Individual Form 1040 filers whose tax extension would run out on Oct. 16, 2017, will now have until January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 to file their 2016 Form 1040. It does however exclude relief for any additional tax due with their 2016 tax return.
- Business filers, such as calendar-year partnerships (Form 1065), or “S” Corporations (Form 1120-S) whose extensions ran out on Sept. 15, 2017.
- Quarterly estimated tax payments due on Sept. 15, 2017 and Jan. 16, 2018.
- Quarterly payroll and excise tax returns due on Oct. 31, 2017.
- Calendar-year tax-exempt organizations whose 2016 extensions run out on Nov. 15, 2017.

A variety of other returns, payments and tax-related actions also qualify for additional time. See the [disaster relief](#) page on [IRS.gov](#) for more details. The IRS also continues to closely monitor the aftermath of these storms, and additional updates for taxpayers will be posted to [IRS.gov](#)

The IRS offers other special assistance to disaster-area taxpayers. This includes the following:

- Special relief helps employer-sponsored leave-based donation programs aid hurricane victims. Under these programs, employees may forgo their vacation, sick or personal leave in exchange for cash payments the employer makes, before Jan. 1, 2019, to charities providing relief. Donated leave is not included in the employee’s income, and employers may deduct these cash payments to charity as a business expense.
- 401(k)s and similar employer-sponsored retirement plans can make loans and hardship distributions to hurricane victims and members of their families. Under this broad-based relief, a retirement plan can allow a hurricane victim to take a hardship distribution or borrow up to the specified statutory limits from the victim’s retirement plan. It also means that a person who lives outside the disaster area can take out a retirement plan loan or hardship distribution and use it to assist a son, daughter, parent, grandparent or dependent who lived or worked in the disaster area. Hardship withdrawals must be made by Jan. 31, 2018.
- The IRS is waiving late-deposit penalties for federal payroll and excise tax deposits normally due during the first 15 days of the disaster period. Check out the disaster relief page for the time periods that apply to each jurisdiction.
- Individuals and businesses who suffered uninsured or unreimbursed disaster-related losses can choose to claim them on either the return for the year the loss occurred (in this instance, the 2017 return normally filed next year), or the return for the prior year (2016).
- The IRS is waiving the usual fees and expediting requests for copies of previously filed tax returns for disaster area taxpayers. This relief can be especially helpful to anyone whose copies of these documents were lost or destroyed by the hurricane.

- If disaster-area taxpayers are contacted by the IRS on a collection or examination matter, they should be sure to explain how the disaster impacts them so that the IRS can provide appropriate consideration to their case.

Please contact Hafer professionals to answer any questions you may have, or to assist you in determining and filing for any hurricane related losses. Nicole Johnson-Pendergrass is the Firm's Director of Operations and can be reached via email at [Njohnson@haferco.com](mailto:Njohnson@haferco.com) or at (561) 655-8700.