

How to Handle a Money Emergency When You Don't Have Savings

First, don't panic. As a member of Pacific NW Ironworkers Federal Credit Union, we're here to help you through the tough times. We will work with you to make sure you can get through your situation. To start, here are five things to consider when tackling your money emergency.

1. Find immediate ways to save

If you don't already have a budget, access your checking account statement and review your expenses. If you're spending money on things that you don't really need, stop and tighten your belt asap. If it's a true emergency, you may need to make some tough decisions but having the extra cash will be worth it.

2. Ask a relative

Before you max out your credit cards, think about whether or not you have a relative you can ask for help. It is important to pay them back in a timely manner, but the "Bank of Family" usually has more flexible terms than most financial institutions.

But remember...some people draw a line at mixing family or friends with finances. Make sure you have a secure relationship with the person and be honest about your ability to repay when you ask to borrow money.

3. Use credit wisely

If putting your emergency debt on a credit card or getting a personal loan is your only option, be careful. You may get immediate relief, but interest rates can dramatically increase the size of your debt.

4. Stay clear of payday loans

Payday loans can be a quick way to access money if you have bad credit, but they can be really expensive. Call the Credit Union before thinking about this option.

5. Give us a call

No matter how helpless you might feel in a money emergency, we are here to help. Give a member representative a call at 1-877-769-4766 to set up an appointment to discuss your options. Pacific NW Ironworkers Federal Credit Union is here to help you in good times and bad.

Vacation/PTO Fund

New Name, New Benefits, Same Great Savings

Vacation Checks have been given a new name - Vacation/PTO Fund. As you may know, your individual fund is now a benefit paid to you by your employer, rather than being deducted from your wage as it was in the past. That's good news!

As a member of Pacific NW Ironworkers Federal Credit Union your Vacation/PTO Fund is automatically deposited into your account, and will automatically transfer into your savings account three times a year, versus the previous two times a year. Like always, your Vacation/PTO Fund is an excellent savings plan. If you don't have it in your monthly budget, you won't miss it, and as your checks compound and interest accrues, before you know it, you'll have a nice chunk of change to take a vacation, buy a new car, pay for college tuition or help fund your retirement! Checking your Fund balance is easier than ever now too. Simply log into your online account to check its balance and view your statements. Saving has never been easier!

If you have questions about your Vacation/PTO Fund or would like to sign up for e-statements, give us a call at **1-877-769-4766**. We're here for you!

The Magic 12 at the Holidays

A loan to ease holiday spending

It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner, so it's time to start thinking about how you are going to pay for all those gifts and fun, seasonal festivities. Racking up big credit card debt is never a good idea. But there's no need to panic. Pacific NW Ironworkers Federal Credit Union has a great idea! Now through the end of the year, you can apply for a "12x12x12" loan. Borrow up to \$1,200 and pay it back within 12 months at a 12% interest rate.

Apply online at www.ironworkersfcu.org or call us at 1-877-769-4766 for more information.



Keep Your Identity Safe

Equifax breach compromises millions of Americans

In September, Equifax, one of the three major consumer credit reporting agencies, revealed that cyber criminals gained access to company data in July which compromised sensitive information, including Social Security numbers, birth dates and driver's license numbers, for 143 million U.S. consumers.

Since personal information was stolen, along with approximately 209,000 credit card numbers, this breach will increase the opportunity for identity theft to occur. It's important to be proactive in order to keep your identity safe.

Enroll in Equifax's identity theft protection and credit file monitoring services

Visit www.equifaxsecurity2017.com/enroll/ to begin the process of enrolling in Equifax's program. This multi-step program will first help you identify whether or not you are potentially affected by this breach. Follow the instructions carefully as it will provide an enrollment date and requires you to go to a different webpage on your enrollment date.

Check your credit reports

Even if you are not identified by Equifax as a potential victim, we recommend you check your credit report for any suspicious activity. Visit www.annualcreditreport.com to request your free reports from the three credit bureaus.

When viewing your reports, look for any credit card accounts or loans that you did not open, late payments on debts you don't recognize or any other unusual activity. If you see unauthorized accounts, immediately contact the bank or credit card company. You won't be responsible for the fraudulent charges, but you must report the problem in a timely manner.

Freeze your credit

Another way to protect your credit is to freeze your credit. Putting a freeze on your credit restricts access to your credit report which makes it more difficult for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name as most creditors need to see your credit report prior to approving a new account.

To freeze your credit, contact each of the credit bureaus using these phone numbers:

Equifax: 1-800-685-1111
Experian: 1-888-397-3742
TransUnion: 1-888-909-8872

There is usually a small fee for freezing your credit, and you may temporarily lift the freeze if you are applying for credit or a job. If you find out which credit reporting company the business will contact for your file, you can save some money by lifting the freeze only at that particular company.

Set a fraud alert

If you have already been a victim of identity theft or are concerned about it, you may set a fraud alert. A fraud alert is free, and you only have to contact one of the credit bureaus as they will contact the other two. When you have an alert on your report, a business must verify your identity before it issues credit, so it may try to contact you. Be sure the credit reporting companies have your current contact information.

To set a fraud alert, contact ONE of the credit bureaus above and ask for an initial fraud alert. Once the alert is set, it will last 90 days. You will have to renew it after the initial 90 days.

If you have questions about fraud prevention or think your Credit Union account may have been hacked, call us right away at 1-877-769-4766.

Member Spotlight



John Victorino
Ironworkers Local 86, Seattle

"When I first opened my checking account, I had a vehicle loan with a super high rate. Corina checked my credit score and helped me refinance to a lower rate."

When John Victorino joined Pacific NW Ironworkers Federal Credit Union in 2007, he was



working as an apprentice and wanted his vacation checks to go straight into his savings account as well as have easy access to his

money. He knew he could count on the Credit Union because both his parents are Ironworkers and Credit Union members too!

With checking and savings accounts and several vehicle loans under his belt, John says he prefers to work with the Credit Union over other banks. "Corina [Ruiz-Buren] has made everything so easy," says John. "When I first opened my checking account, I had a vehicle loan with a super high rate. Corina checked my credit score and helped me refinance to a lower rate."

It was also Corina who helped John improve his credit score. Together they created a plan to focus on specific creditors and pay down larger debts. When John refinanced his trailer, he was able to consolidate debts and get rid of all the big creditors at once. "With bigger banks, I was a risk that they didn't want to take. At the credit union, they know me, my history, and know that I'm not going anywhere. They see me as human rather than a number."

At Pacific NW Ironworkers Federal Credit Union, it's our mission to remain small enough to be able to help our members one-on-one, but big enough to provide them with all the financial services they need. We are the "go to" people when our members need assistance with any aspect of their financial lives.

Ironworkers for Ta-Tas

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month

Yes, you read that right! Every one of us has either had a friend or loved one who's battled breast cancer. To show our support for the hard working women (and men) who are battling breast cancer, Pacific NW Ironworkers Federal Credit Union has designed an original "Ironworkers for Ta-Tas" t-shirt which will be for sale throughout October at www.ironworkersfcu.org/tatas (more designs available online).

The t-shirts are \$15 each and proceeds from the sale will be donated to Breast Friends. Breast Friends is a non-profit organization that ensures that no woman goes through cancer alone. They are a unique resource for women, their family, friends, co-workers and the community to minimize the fear and isolation of cancer. They offer Lyft service to appointments, counseling services, workshops and retreats and so much more. Visit their website to learn more at breastfriends.org. Let's show the world that Ironworkers care about Ta-Tas!



PORTLAND BRANCH

M - F 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
11620 NE Ainsworth Circle, #400
Portland, OR 97220
Phone: (503) 774-3848
Fax: (503) 774-7619

SEATTLE BRANCH

M - F 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
4550 S 134TH Place, Suite 103
Tukwila, WA 98168
Phone: (206) 835-0150
Fax: (206) 835-0207

SPOKANE BRANCH

M - F 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
16610 E Euclid
Spokane, WA 99216
Phone: (509) 326-2485
Fax: (509) 326-1128

Pacific Northwest

IRONWORKERS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Toll Free:

1-877-769-4766 (877-PNW-IRON)

Telephone Teller - SPUD:

1-877-769-7783 (877-PNW-SPUD)

www.ironworkersfcu.org

