



**What happens in the event of a natural disaster your tax records are destroyed?
Are you still required to submit a tax return? And if so, how?**

Penny, Shepparton VIC

Unfortunately Penny no matter what circumstance that you are dealt with, there is still an obligation to do a tax return. However the Tax Office is empathetic to your situation and will work with you in helping meet any tax obligations such as lodging tax returns and Business Activity Statements. If you are in that situation the first thing to do is call them on **13 11 42** and explain your predicament.

The good news is that ATO will accept deductions without substantiation where they feel it is reasonable to do so. However you will need to reconstruct your records to the best of your ability. This includes obtaining information from employers, suppliers, customers and the bank. Costs associated with getting copies of bank statements are tax deductible. In some instances, the Tax Office will even help with rebuilding your records.

Generally you will also get an extension to lodge – and even pay – your tax.