



Department  
of the  
Treasury  
Internal  
Revenue  
Service

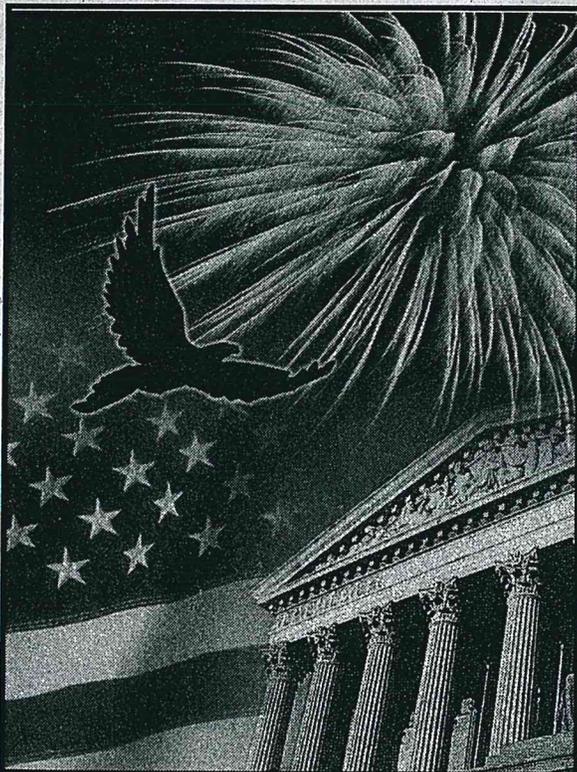
**Publication 584**  
(Rev. June 2012)

Cat. No. 15151M

# Casualty, Disaster, and Theft Loss Workbook

## (Personal-Use Property)

*800 829 1040  
Fed Disaster Deduction*



Get forms and other information  
faster and easier by:  
**Internet IRS.gov**

### What's New

**Future developments.** The IRS has created a page on IRS.gov for information about Publication 584, at [www.irs.gov/pub584](http://www.irs.gov/pub584). Information about any future developments affecting Publication 584 (such as legislation enacted after we release it) will be posted on that page.

### Introduction

This workbook is designed to help you figure your loss on personal-use property in the event of a disaster, casualty, or theft. It contains schedules to help you figure the loss to your main home, its contents, and your motor vehicles. However, these schedules are for your information only. You must complete Form 4684, Casualties and Thefts, to report your loss.

### How To Use This Workbook

You can use this workbook by following these five steps.

1. Read Publication 547 to learn about the tax rules for casualties, disasters, and thefts.
2. Know the definitions of cost or other basis and fair market value, discussed later.
3. Fill out Schedules 1 through 20.
4. Read the instructions for Form 4684.
5. Fill out Form 4684 using the information you entered in Schedules 1 through 20.

Use the chart below to find out how to use Schedules 1 through 19 to fill out Form 4684.

Take what's in each row of...	And enter it on Form 4684...
Column 1	Line 1
Column 2	Line 2
Column 3	Line 3
Column 4	Line 4
Column 5	Line 5
Column 6	Line 6
Column 7	Line 7
Column 8	Line 8
Column 9	Line 9

### Losses

Generally, you may deduct losses to your home, household goods, and motor vehicles on your federal income tax return. However, you may not deduct a casualty or theft loss that is covered by insurance unless you filed a timely insurance claim for reimbursement. Any reimbursement you receive will reduce the loss. If you did not file an insurance claim, you may deduct only the part of the loss that was not covered by insurance.

**Amount of loss.** You figure the amount of your loss using the following steps.

1. Determine your cost or other basis in the property before the casualty or theft.

- Determine the decrease in fair market value (FMV) of the property as a result of the casualty or theft. (The decrease in FMV is the difference between the property's value immediately before and immediately after the casualty or theft.)
- From the smaller of the amounts you determined in (1) and (2), subtract any insurance or other reimbursement you received or expect to receive.

Apply the deduction limits, discussed later, to determine the amount of your deductible loss.

**Cost or other basis.** Cost or other basis usually means original cost plus improvements. If you did not acquire the property by purchasing it, your basis is determined as discussed in Publication 551, *Basis of Assets*. If you inherited the property from someone who died in 2010, and the executor of the decedent's estate made the election to file Form 8939, refer to the information provided by the executor or see Publication 4895, *Tax Treatment of Property Acquired From a Decedent Dying in 2010*.

**Fair market value.** FMV is the price for which you could sell your property to a willing buyer, when neither of you has to sell or buy and both of you know all the relevant facts. When filling out Schedules 1 through 20, you need to know the FMV of the property immediately before and immediately after the disaster, casualty, or theft.

**Separate computations.** Generally, if a single casualty or theft involves more than one item of property, you must figure the loss on each item separately. Then combine the losses to determine the total loss from that casualty or theft.

**Exception for personal-use real property.** In figuring a casualty loss on personal-use real property, the entire property (including any improvements, such as buildings, trees, and shrubs) is treated as one item. Figure the loss using the smaller of the following.

- The decrease in FMV of the entire property.
- The adjusted basis of the entire property.

**Deduction limits.** After you have figured the amount of your loss, as discussed earlier, you must figure how much of the loss you can deduct. You do this on Form 4684, section A. If the loss was to property for your personal use or your family's, there are two limits on the amount you can deduct for your casualty or theft loss.

- You must reduce each casualty or theft loss by \$100 (\$100 rule).
- You must further reduce the total of all your losses by 10% of your adjusted gross income (10% rule).

**More information.** For more information about the deduction limits, see Publication 547.

**When your loss is deductible.** You can generally deduct a casualty or disaster area loss only in the tax year in which the casualty or disaster occurred. You can generally deduct a theft loss only in the year you discovered your property was stolen. However, you can choose

to deduct disaster area losses on your return for the year immediately before the year of the disaster if the President has declared your area a federal disaster area. For details, see *Disaster Area Losses* in Publication 547.

## Comments and Suggestions

We welcome your comments about this publication and your suggestions for future editions.

You can write to us at the following address:

Internal Revenue Service  
Individual Forms and Publications Branch  
SE:W:CAR:MP:T:I  
1111 Constitution Ave. NW, IR-6526  
Washington, DC 20224

We respond to many letters by telephone. Therefore, it would be helpful if you would include your daytime phone number, including the area code, in your correspondence.

You can email us at [taxforms@irs.gov](mailto:taxforms@irs.gov). Please put "Publications Comment" on the subject line. You can also send us comments from [www.irs.gov/formspubs](http://www.irs.gov/formspubs). Select "Comment on Tax Forms and Publications" under "Information about."

Although we cannot respond individually to each comment received, we do appreciate your feedback and will consider your comments as we revise our tax products.

**Ordering forms and publications.** Visit [www.irs.gov/formspubs/](http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/) to download forms and publications, call 1-800-829-3676, or write to the address below and receive a response within 10 days after your request is received.

Internal Revenue Service  
1201 N. Mitsubishi Motorway  
Bloomington, IL 61705-6613

**Tax questions.** If you have a tax question, check the information available on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) or call 1-800-829-1040. We cannot answer tax questions sent to either of the above addresses.

## How To Get Tax Help

You can get help with unresolved tax issues, order free publications and forms, ask tax questions, and get information from the IRS in several ways. By selecting the method that is best for you, you will have quick and easy access to tax help.

**Free help with your return.** Free help in preparing your return is available nationwide from IRS-certified volunteers. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is designed to help low-moderate income taxpayers and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program is designed to assist taxpayers age 60 and older with their tax returns. Most VITA and TCE sites offer free electronic filing and all volunteers will let you know about credits and deductions you may be entitled to claim. To find the

nearest VITA or TCE site, visit [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) or 1-800-906-9887 or 1-800-829-1040.

As part of the TCE program, AARP offers the Tax-Aide counseling program. To find nearest AARP Tax-Aide site, 1-888-227-7669 or visit AARP's website at [www.aarp.org/money/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/money/taxaide).

For more information on these programs to [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) and enter keyword "VITA" in the per right-hand corner.



**Internet.** You can access the website at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to:

- E-file your return. Find out about commercial tax preparation and e-file services available free to eligible taxpayers.
- Check the status of your 2011 refund. Go to [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) and click on *Where's My Refund*. Wait at least 72 hours after the IRS acknowledges receipt of your e-filed return, or 3 to 4 weeks after mailing a paper return. If you filed Form 8379 with your return, wait 14 weeks (11 weeks if you file electronically). Have your 2011 tax return available so you can provide your social security number, your filing status, and the exact whole dollar amount of your refund.
- Download forms, including talking tax forms, instructions, and publications.
- Order IRS products online.
- Research your tax questions online.
- Search publications online by topic or keyword.
- Use the online Internal Revenue Code, regulations, or other official guidance.
- View Internal Revenue Bulletins (IRBs) published in the last few years.
- Figure your withholding allowances using the withholding calculator online at [www.irs.gov/individuals](http://www.irs.gov/individuals).
- Determine if Form 6251 must be filed by using our Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) Assistant available online at [www.irs.gov/individuals](http://www.irs.gov/individuals).
- Sign up to receive local and national tax news by email.
- Get information on starting and operating small business.



**Phone.** Many services are available by phone.

- Ordering forms, instructions, and publications.** Call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676) to order current-year forms, instructions, and publications, and prior-year forms and instructions. You should receive your order within 10 days.
- Asking tax questions.** Call the IRS with your tax questions at 1-800-829-1040.
- Solving problems.** You can get face-to-face help solving tax problems every business day in IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers. An employee can explain IRS letters, request adjustments to your account, or help you set up a payment plan. Call your local Taxpayer Assistance Center for an appointment. To find the number, go to [www.irs.gov/localcontacts](http://www.irs.gov/localcontacts) or look in the phone book under *United States Government, Internal Revenue Service*.