EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE & BUILD AN EMERGENCY FUND

Don't think it can never happen. Instead prepare for the worst!

The last few weeks have been filled with news about the partial government shutdown, and the negative impact it's having on employees who will not receive a paycheck until Congress resolves the issue. Whether you agree or disagree with the reasons for the impasse in Congress, this points out another area that is somewhat alarming – the inability for families to miss even one paycheck without it creating a crisis.

Two weeks before the government employees missed their first paycheck, interviews were aired as to how they would have no money to buy groceries, make house payments, buy gasoline, or anything else that goes along with running a household. If only one paycheck is missed a catastrophe occurs. What if the shutdown lasts through a second or a third pay period? What then?

ARPI provides business and community coaching throughout the United States. If you have a business question for Jack, email him at jack.newcomb@totelcsi.com. You can also visit the ARPI website, www.advancingruralprosperity.com.

These are Federal employees, who I assume, have decent paying jobs. If they can't afford to miss a single paycheck, what about the millions of people who make far less money? How "at risk" are they if their wages are lost for a week or two. How about you? How would your family fare?

While I sympathize with those who are struggling, I'm also surprised at how many have absolutely no reserve fund to help survive an emergency. Every financial advisor recommends having at least three months living expenses socked away for a rainy day. That may not be attainable for everyone, so why not set a goal of one month? I've said it before, start saving early, start small, and leave it alone except for emergencies. You may surprise yourself at how it grows.

