

# Complete 48-Hour Banking Crisis Survival Checklist

*Modern Bank Failures Happen at Digital Speed - Your Preparation Must Too*

## Crisis Reality Check

### Silicon Valley Bank Timeline:

- **Thursday AM:** \$1.8B loss announced
- **Thursday PM:** Venture capital panic spreads
- **Friday AM:** \$42B in withdrawals requested
- **Friday PM:** Bank seized by regulators

**Total time from warning to collapse: 24 hours**

**Your preparation timeline needs to be faster than crisis development.**

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## IMMEDIATE ACTION PLAN (Next 48 Hours)

### Hour 1-2: Current Vulnerability Assessment

#### Banking Concentration Risk Check:

- What % of your money is in your primary bank? \_\_\_\_\_%
- How many banks do you currently use? \_\_\_\_\_
- Can you access funds if your primary bank closes tomorrow? Yes/No
- Do you have cash for 2+ weeks of expenses? Yes/No

#### Emergency Access Test:

- Can you log into mobile banking from your phone right now?
- Do you remember your debit card PIN?
- Can you access funds without your phone/internet?
- Do you have backup payment methods that work today?

#### Crisis Timeline Reality:

- **If your bank fails Friday evening:** No access until Monday at earliest
- **If crisis spreads to other banks:** ATM networks may limit withdrawals
- **If payment systems disrupted:** Credit/debit cards may not work

- **If internet/mobile disrupted:** Digital banking becomes impossible

**Your Current Crisis Survival Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ days

### **Hour 3-6: Emergency Banking Setup**

#### **Priority 1: Open Second Bank Account TODAY**

##### **Best Options for Immediate Setup:**

- Online bank with instant approval** (Capital One 360, Ally, Marcus)  **Local credit union** (often same-day approval for members)
- National bank different from your current** (Chase if you have BoA, etc.)

##### **Required Information (Gather Before Starting):**

- Driver's license or state ID
- Social Security number
- Current address verification
- Initial deposit amount (\$25-100 minimum)
- Employment information

##### **Setup Checklist:**

- Open account online or in-person
- Download mobile banking app
- Set up online banking login
- Order debit card (expedited shipping if available)
- Transfer initial deposit from primary bank
- Set up account alerts and notifications

#### **Priority 2: Optimize FDIC Insurance Coverage**

##### **Current Coverage Check:**

- **Individual accounts:** \$250,000 per bank
- **Joint accounts:** \$500,000 per bank (married couples)
- **Business accounts:** Separate \$250,000 coverage
- **Retirement accounts:** Separate \$250,000 coverage

##### **Immediate Optimization:**

- If over \$250K at one bank, move excess to new bank immediately

- Convert individual account to joint account with spouse (doubles coverage)
- Open business account if self-employed (separate coverage)
- Consider CD at different bank for separate coverage

**Coverage Calculator:**

- Bank 1: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (max \$250K individual)
- Bank 2: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (max \$250K individual)
- Bank 3: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (max \$250K individual)
- **Total Protected:** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Hour 7-12: Cash Position and Alternative Access**

**Physical Cash Strategy**

**Immediate Cash Withdrawal:**

- Withdraw \$500-2000 in small bills (20s, 10s, 5s)
- Use different ATMs/banks to avoid single-source limit
- Keep withdrawal receipts for records
- Store cash in secure, accessible location

**Cash Storage Security:**

- Home safe or security box
- Multiple small caches vs. one large amount
- Fire/water resistant container
- Location known to trusted family member
- Insurance documentation if applicable

**Monthly Cash Target:**

- **Essential expenses only:** \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month
- **2-week emergency cash needed:** \$\_\_\_\_\_
- **4-week emergency cash target:** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Alternative Payment Setup**

**Mobile Payment Diversification:**

- Apple Pay/Google Pay linked to multiple cards
- PayPal account with bank account linkage
- Venmo account setup and verified

- Cash App account with debit card option
- Zelle setup through multiple banks

### **Prepaid Card Strategy:**

- Visa/Mastercard prepaid cards loaded with \$200-500
- Store-specific gift cards (grocery, gas, pharmacy)
- Transit cards for transportation
- Phone service prepaid cards

## **Hour 13-24: Third Bank and Credit Access**

### **Third Banking Relationship**

#### **Why Three Banks Minimum:**

- Bank 1 fails: Banks 2&3 still functional
- Regional crisis affects Bank 1&2: Bank 3 in different region
- System-wide stress: Multiple relationships increase options

#### **Third Bank Selection Criteria:**

- Different geographic region from Banks 1&2
- Different ownership structure (credit union vs. commercial)
- Different technology platform (reduces simultaneous failure risk)
- Different specialization (consumer vs. business vs. agricultural)

#### **Quick Third Bank Options:**

- Credit union membership** (often immediate)
- Community bank** in nearby area
- Online bank** with different parent company
- Regional bank** not present in your area

### **Credit Line Establishment**

#### **Apply While Banking Stable (Credit Approval Impossible During Crisis):**

- Home Equity Line of Credit** (largest available credit line)
- Personal credit cards** from different issuing banks
- Business credit line** if self-employed

- Credit union personal loan** pre-approval

### **Credit Application Timeline:**

- **HELOC:** 2-6 weeks processing (start immediately)
- **Credit cards:** Often instant approval online
- **Personal loans:** 1-7 days processing
- **Business credit:** 1-3 weeks processing

### **Strategic Credit Management:**

- Don't use credit lines unless emergency
- Keep credit utilization under 30%
- Maintain excellent payment history
- Monitor credit reports for changes

## **Hour 25-48: System Testing and Documentation**

### **Backup System Testing**

#### **Test Each System TODAY:**

- Log into all bank accounts from phone
- Transfer money between accounts
- Use each debit card for small purchase
- Test mobile payment apps with purchases
- Verify ATM access for each card
- Confirm online bill pay setup

### **Documentation Creation:**

- List all account numbers and routing numbers
- Customer service phone numbers for each institution
- Online login credentials (stored securely)
- Emergency contact information
- FDIC insurance coverage summary

### **Family Communication:**

- Explain backup plan to household members
- Ensure others can access emergency cash

- Share location of important documents
  - Review who has access to which accounts
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## **WEEK 1-4: COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCE BUILDING**

### **Week 1: Banking Diversification Complete**

#### **Monday: Account Optimization**

- Review account fees and minimize costs
- Set up direct deposit split across accounts
- Arrange automatic transfers for account minimums
- Update all automatic bill payments

#### **Tuesday: Advanced FDIC Optimization**

- Research beneficiary accounts for additional coverage
- Consider trust accounts if assets exceed basic coverage
- Optimize business vs. personal account distribution
- Review retirement account placement

#### **Wednesday: Payment System Redundancy**

- Add all debit cards to mobile wallets
- Test contactless payments at various merchants
- Set up different ATM networks access
- Verify international payment options

#### **Thursday: Digital Security Enhancement**

- Enable two-factor authentication on all accounts
- Update passwords for all banking services
- Review account alert settings
- Check credit reports for new accounts

#### **Friday: Crisis Communication Plan**

- Create emergency contact list for all banks

- Document account recovery procedures
- Establish family communication protocols
- Review and practice emergency procedures

## **Week 2: Alternative Systems Development**

### **Cash Management System:**

- Establish regular cash withdrawal schedule
- Create secure storage rotation system
- Build relationships with local cash businesses
- Practice cash-only days monthly

### **Cryptocurrency Backup (Optional but Recommended):**

- Research reputable cryptocurrency exchanges
- Set up digital wallet with small amounts
- Learn basic cryptocurrency security
- Consider stable coins for digital cash backup

### **Barter and Trade Networks:**

- Research local time banks and skill sharing
- Join community resource sharing groups
- Identify valuable skills for non-cash trade
- Build relationships with local service providers

## **Week 3-4: Community Integration**

### **Local Banking Alternatives:**

- Research community development financial institutions
- Investigate local investment cooperatives
- Join credit unions with community focus
- Support local community banks

### **Mutual Aid Networks:**

- Connect with neighborhood emergency planning

- Join or create mutual aid resource sharing
  - Establish emergency assistance networks
  - Practice community coordination during normal times
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## **EARLY WARNING SYSTEM**

### **Banking Stress Indicators to Monitor**

#### **Bank-Specific Warning Signs:**

- Unusual restrictions on withdrawals or transfers
- Changes in online banking functionality
- Delays in processing transactions
- Sudden changes in interest rates or fees
- Staff reduction or branch closures
- Negative news coverage or credit rating downgrades

#### **System-Wide Warning Signs:**

- Multiple bank failures in short timeframe
- Federal Reserve emergency lending increases
- FDIC insurance fund stress
- Commercial real estate crisis escalation
- International banking stress (Europe, Asia)
- Currency crisis or exchange rate volatility

#### **Information Sources for Early Warning:**

- FDIC Failed Bank List (updated weekly)
- Federal Reserve H.8 Assets and Liabilities report
- Treasury International Capital (TIC) data
- Commercial real estate stress indices
- Banking sector stock performance
- Credit default swap prices for major banks

## Crisis Activation Triggers

### Level 1: Increased Vigilance

- Single bank failure or major banking news
- **Action:** Review backup plan, check all account access

### Level 2: Active Preparation

- Multiple bank failures or systemic stress indicators
- **Action:** Increase cash position, test all backup systems

### Level 3: Crisis Implementation

- Major bank failure or clear systemic crisis developing
- **Action:** Activate full backup plan, maximize diversification

### Level 4: Emergency Protocol

- Multiple simultaneous failures or payment system disruption
  - **Action:** Full crisis mode, community coordination, cash operations
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## INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP STRATEGY

### Banking Relationship Portfolio

#### Optimal Banking Mix:

1. **Primary Bank:** Largest balance, main services, local branch access
2. **Secondary Bank:** Different region/ownership, 25-40% of funds
3. **Credit Union:** Community ownership, different risk profile
4. **Online Bank:** Higher interest rates, technology backup
5. **Community Bank:** Local relationships, alternative services

#### Geographic Diversification:

- At least one bank outside your state
- Different regional economic bases
- Urban and rural bank mix
- International banking relationship (advanced)

#### Service Diversification:

- Different ATM networks
- Various mobile banking platforms
- Different customer service approaches

- Varied fee structures and benefits

## **Credit Facility Strategy**

### **Diversified Credit Access:**

- HELOC:** Largest line, lowest rates, secured by property
- Business credit:** If self-employed, different risk assessment
- Personal credit cards:** Multiple issuers, instant access
- Credit union loans:** Member benefits, community relationship

### **Credit Timing Strategy:**

- **Apply during stability:** Credit approval easier when banks confident
  - **Establish before need:** Credit unavailable during crisis
  - **Maintain unused capacity:** Emergency access without application delay
  - **Monitor credit health:** Strong credit enables crisis access
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## **DIGITAL CRISIS PREPAREDNESS**

### **Technology Backup Systems**

#### **Banking App Redundancy:**

- Multiple banking apps installed and tested
- Web browser bookmarks for online banking
- Paper backup of critical account information
- Phone number access for telephone banking

#### **Internet/Power Outage Preparation:**

- Multiple device charging capability
- Portable phone chargers and power banks
- Access to banking from multiple locations
- Cash backup for digital payment failure

#### **Communication System Backup:**

- Multiple ways to contact each bank
- Emergency contact information for family

- Community communication network (neighbors)
- Non-digital emergency coordination plans

## **Security During Crisis**

### **Account Security Enhancement:**

- Monitor accounts daily during crisis periods
- Set up immediate transaction alerts
- Use secure networks only for banking
- Regular password updates and security reviews

### **Fraud Prevention:**

- Understand common crisis-period fraud schemes
  - Verify all banking communications independently
  - Never share account information via unsecured methods
  - Report suspicious activity immediately
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## **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE INTEGRATION**

### **Beyond Individual Preparation**

#### **Community Banking Alternatives:**

- Participate in local currency systems
- Join community investment cooperatives
- Support community development financial institutions
- Advocate for public banking options

#### **Mutual Aid Financial Networks:**

- Create emergency lending circles
- Participate in resource sharing economies
- Establish community crisis response funds
- Build relationships for economic cooperation

#### **Skills for Non-Monetary Economy:**

- Develop valuable trade skills
- Build reputation for reliable service
- Create community value through cooperation
- Learn conflict resolution and coordination skills

## **Democratic Economic Participation**

### **Local Economic Development:**

- Support worker-owned cooperatives
- Participate in community land trusts
- Advocate for community-controlled banking
- Join local economic development planning

### **Policy Advocacy:**

- Support banking regulation strengthening
  - Advocate for public banking options
  - Push for community development investment
  - Promote economic democracy initiatives
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## **CRISIS SURVIVAL SCORECARD**

### **Immediate Readiness (Complete in 48 Hours)**

#### **Banking Diversification: \_\_\_/10 points**

- Second bank account opened (3 points)
- Third banking relationship established (3 points)
- FDIC insurance optimized (2 points)
- All accounts tested and functional (2 points)

#### **Cash and Alternative Access: \_\_\_/10 points**

- 2+ weeks cash secured (4 points)
- Multiple payment methods setup (3 points)
- Prepaid cards and alternatives ready (2 points)

Alternative payment systems tested (1 point)

**Credit and Emergency Access:** \_\_\_/10 points

Credit facilities established (4 points)

Credit applications in process (3 points)

Emergency credit access confirmed (2 points)

Credit monitoring system active (1 point)

**Medium-Term Resilience (Next 30 Days)**

**System Integration:** \_\_\_/10 points

All banking systems tested regularly (3 points)

Automatic systems optimized (2 points)

Family emergency plan implemented (3 points)

Documentation and security completed (2 points)

**Community Preparation:** \_\_\_/10 points

Local banking alternatives researched (3 points)

Mutual aid networks established (3 points)

Community resource sharing active (2 points)

Emergency coordination planning (2 points)

**Early Warning System:** \_\_\_/10 points

Banking stress monitoring system (4 points)

Crisis activation triggers defined (3 points)

Information sources identified (2 points)

Regular monitoring schedule established (1 point)

**Total Crisis Preparedness Score:** \_\_\_/60

**Scoring:**

- **50-60:** Excellent crisis preparedness
  - **40-49:** Good preparation, minor improvements needed
  - **30-39:** Moderate preparation, significant work required
  - **Below 30:** High crisis vulnerability, immediate action required
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# EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS

## Crisis Day 1: Bank Failure Announcement

### Hour 1:

- Assess which bank(s) affected
- Check all other account access immediately
- Contact family about backup plan activation
- Review cash position and alternative payment access

### Hour 2-6:

- Transfer funds from affected bank if possible
- Activate backup banking relationships
- Increase cash withdrawal from functioning banks
- Test all alternative payment systems

### Hour 6-24:

- Implement full backup banking strategy
- Contact community mutual aid networks
- Monitor situation for escalation signs
- Prepare for extended disruption

## Crisis Days 2-7: System Stabilization

### Banking Access:

- Establish primary banking through backup relationships
- Monitor FDIC insurance claim process if applicable
- Maintain increased cash position
- Document all crisis-related expenses

### Community Coordination:

- Share resources with community members
- Participate in mutual aid emergency response
- Support neighbors with crisis preparation

- Coordinate community resource sharing

**Information and Adaptation:**

- Monitor banking stress indicators daily
  - Adjust strategy based on crisis evolution
  - Maintain communication with all institutions
  - Plan for potential additional failures
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## **EMERGENCY CONTACT DIRECTORY**

**Fill in Your Information:**

**Bank 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Customer Service: \_\_\_\_\_
- Emergency Line: \_\_\_\_\_
- Account Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bank 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Customer Service: \_\_\_\_\_
- Emergency Line: \_\_\_\_\_
- Account Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bank 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Customer Service: \_\_\_\_\_
- Emergency Line: \_\_\_\_\_
- Account Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Union:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Member Services: \_\_\_\_\_
- After-Hours Line: \_\_\_\_\_
- Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Cards/Lines of Credit:**

- Card 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Service: \_\_\_\_\_
- Card 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Service: \_\_\_\_\_
- HELOC: \_\_\_\_\_ Service: \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Resources:**

- Mutual Aid Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

- Neighborhood Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_
- Local Emergency Services: \_\_\_\_\_
- Community Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

**Government Resources:**

- FDIC: 1-877-275-3342
  - Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: 1-855-411-2372
  - State Banking Regulator: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Local Emergency Management: \_\_\_\_\_
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 **NEXT STEPS**

**Today (Start Immediately):**

1.  Complete vulnerability assessment
2.  Open second bank account
3.  Withdraw emergency cash
4.  Set up alternative payment methods

**This Week:**

1.  Open third banking relationship
2.  Optimize FDIC insurance coverage
3.  Apply for credit facilities
4.  Test all backup systems

**This Month:**

1.  Complete community integration
2.  Establish early warning monitoring
3.  Build alternative economic relationships
4.  Practice crisis protocols

**Ongoing:**

1.  Monthly system testing
  2.  Quarterly strategy review
  3.  Annual crisis drill with family
  4.  Community coordination maintenance
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**The 48-hour timeline is real. Bank failures now happen at digital speed. Your preparation needs to match that reality.**

**Start your backup plan TODAY. Every hour of delay increases your vulnerability to crisis-speed disruption.**

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## **Ready for Community Banking Resilience?**

**Individual preparation has limits. Community resilience provides security that individual diversification cannot guarantee.**

**Join the MTWX Voices Heard community for:**

- Real-time banking stress monitoring and early warning
- Community banking alternatives development
- Emergency coordination and mutual aid networking
- Advanced financial institution diversification strategies

**Your banking backup plan is most effective when your community has backup plans too.**

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*This checklist assumes normal legal and regulatory conditions. Always comply with applicable laws and regulations. Consult with financial and legal professionals for advice specific to your situation.*

**Last Updated:** August 8, 2025

**Next Update:** MTWX members receive real-time updates during banking stress periods