



GEMA



FEMA

FOR GEORGIA COUNTIES

Disaster News

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State/FEMA Media Contact:
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TELL YOUR NEIGHBOR ABOUT DISASTER ASSISTANCE

ATLANTA – More than 1,300 Georgia residents have applied for disaster assistance to date and more than \$4.7 million has been approved for eligible applicants. Officials want to make sure no one is overlooked.

Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) officials are enlisting the help of area residents to ensure everyone is aware that disaster assistance is available.

So far the agencies have used television, radio, newspapers, Internet, flyers and door-to-door visits to get the word out. By using the Tell-Your-Neighbor campaign, they now are getting the public involved by notifying their neighbors that they may be eligible to receive federal disaster help.

“We’re hoping the public will help us spread the message,” said GEMA State Coordinating Officer Charley English. “Take a few moments to call or knock on your neighbors’ doors to see if they have applied with FEMA and the SBA.”

“Disasters tend to bring out the best in people, so we’re confident the public will help speed the recovery by talking to their neighbors and relatives,” said FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Terry Quarles.

Severe storms and flooding from March 26-April 13 affected many Georgia neighborhoods. As a result of a presidential disaster declaration, 23 counties are eligible for FEMA’s Individual Assistance program.

Housing Assistance grants cover rental assistance and home repairs or replacement. The objective is to make damaged dwellings safe, sanitary and functional. Other Needs Assistance grants may be available to replace personal property and help meet medical, dental, funeral, and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other federal, state and charitable-aid programs.

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Eligible Georgians affected by these storms and flooding should apply as soon as possible. To register for assistance go online to www.DisasterAssistance.gov or call toll free **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 800-462-7585**. The toll-free numbers are staffed seven days a week, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time. Help in all languages is available.

The SBA offers low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations for losses not fully covered by insurance. The SBA may lend up to \$200,000 to repair or replace homes and up to \$40,000 to repair or replace personal property. Also, up to \$2 million is available for businesses for their uncompensated disaster losses. Individuals who do not qualify for an SBA loan may be eligible for additional disaster assistance.

For more information and assistance, call the SBA Customer Service Center from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. (EDT) Monday through Friday at **800-659-2955**. Survivors may apply online at disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/. Applicants also may visit the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance, or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

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For more information on Georgia's disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov or www.gema.ga.gov or www.ready.ga.gov or <http://twitter.com/GeorgiaEMA>