



GEMA



FEMA

Disaster News

April 29, 2009
GA-1833-NR-004
State Media Contact: 404-635-7000
FEMA Media Contact: 866-993-0144

TWO MORE DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS OPEN TO HELP GEORGIA FLOOD SURVIVORS

Total of five are now open to serve disaster survivors

ATLANTA – Two more Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) operated by the state of Georgia and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) opened today to help people affected by the storms and flooding that struck Georgia starting March 26.

People in Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Coffee, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Pierce, Tift, Ware, Wheeler, and Worth counties who suffered losses can get person-to-person assistance at the centers from specialists skilled in many disaster-related subjects.

DRCs serving the following counties opened at 8 a.m. today:

Decatur and Miller

Chamber 1
1213 Vada Road
Bainbridge, GA 39817

Tift and Worth

Special Purpose Building
202 Baldwin Drive
Tifton, GA 31794

DRCs remain open in Coffee County at the Weir Center in Douglas, 200 East Bryan St., Bldg. F and in Lowndes County at the County Civic Center, 2102 East Hill Ave. in Valdosta. One Mobile Disaster Recovery Center is open in Brantley County at the Brantley County Concerted Services, 789 Burton St. Nahunta, GA 31553. Centers are open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday until further notice.

Disaster officials ask that before visiting the centers, people first apply for assistance by registering online at **www.DisasterAssistance.gov** or by calling **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 800-462-7585**. The toll-free numbers are staffed seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time. Help in all languages is available.

(MORE)

TWO MORE DRCs OPEN – page 2

Once registered, disaster recovery specialists at the DRCs can check an individual's case, answer questions about their claim, or review information needed to process their claim. Recovery specialists also can supply contacts for other programs that may be able to help.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) representatives will be at the DRCs to answer any questions about the SBA's low-interest disaster loan program for homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations. These loans are to repair or replace real estate and/or personal property damaged by the late March storms and flooding.

Representatives will help complete and accept SBA disaster loan application. Anyone not able to go to a DRC should call the SBA Customer Service Center from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time, Monday through Friday, and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., EST, toll-free at 800-659-2955 for information and assistance, or visit the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance or send an email to 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.

###

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>