



GEMA



FEMA

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News Release

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS TO OPEN IN JENKINS, JOHNSON AND LAURENS COUNTIES

ATLANTA – Starting at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 29, anyone with losses from the early May tornadoes can get in-person help at Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in Jenkins, Johnson and Laurens counties. Officials from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today that centers are opening in those three counties to help affected Georgians access various disaster recovery programs. A complete list of new locations is below.

“At the DRCs, people can get their questions answered about registration for disaster assistance, learn techniques for rebuilding stronger and safer, obtain help applying for low-interest U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loans and find other information about programs that may be useful to help them get back on their feet,” said State Coordinating Officer Joe McKinney.

Three centers are already operating in Bibb County and one in Carroll County. Officials expect centers to open soon in additional counties. Individuals may obtain assistance at a center in any county.

FEMA officials encourage affected homeowners, renters and business owners, if possible, to register for assistance before they visit a DRC. FEMA’s toll free telephone registration and help line, 800-621-FEMA (3362), is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time seven days a week. For speech- or hearing-impaired applicants, the TTY number is 800-462-7585. Applicants can register online any time at www.fema.gov.

“We urge everyone with losses from these storms to register for assistance now,” said Jeff Bryant, the federal official leading FEMA’s response in Georgia. “FEMA can’t duplicate benefits from insurance, but there may be losses that aren’t insured. Registration is the only way to assure you receive all the aid for which you’re eligible to help you recover from the disaster.”

Federal disaster assistance can include grants for short-term rental needs, for homeowners to make repairs and for a variety of other disaster-related expenses. Grants cover basic needs only and will not normally compensate storm victims for their entire loss.

(MORE)

CENTERS TO OPEN IN JENKINS, JOHNSON AND LAURENS COUNTIES – Page 2

Low-interest SBA loans may be available to pay for repair, rebuilding or replacement of property not fully covered by insurance. SBA representatives are at all DRCs to answer questions, provide

applications and assistance completing them, and to accept completed applications. For more information about disaster loans call SBA at 800-659-2955 or visit the website at www.sba.gov.

Individuals in 10 Georgia counties may be eligible for federal help with damages from the May 11-12 storms as the result of a presidential disaster declaration on May 25. The counties are Bibb, Carroll, Douglas, Emanuel, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Laurens, McIntosh and Twiggs.

Disaster Recovery Centers Opening Thursday, May 29 Operating Hours: 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

Jenkins County

Jenkins County Senior Citizens Center
928 East College Ave.
Millen, GA 30442

Johnson County

Johnson County School
150 Trojan Way
Wrightsville, GA 31096

Laurens County

East Laurens Primary School Gym
U.S. Highway 80 East
Dublin, GA 31027

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

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.

SBA's disaster loans are the primary form of federal assistance for non-farm, private sector disaster losses. Disaster loans from SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and nonprofit organizations fund repair and replacement of disaster damaged real and personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For information about SBA programs, applicants may call 800-659-2955 or online at www.sba.gov.

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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 www.georgia911.org or www.afcema.com