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FEMA

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Disaster News

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER OPENS IN BAKER COUNTY

ATLANTA – The state of Georgia and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today opened a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in the city of Newton in Baker County for people affected by the tornadoes.

The DRC opened at noon and will remain open until 6:30 p.m. this evening. Beginning Thursday, March 8, the hours of operation will be 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The address of the DRC is 139 Roosevelt St., Newton, GA – Old Baker Elementary School.

Disaster victims are urged to register for assistance first by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the hearing or speech impaired. Victims can also register online at www.fema.gov or visit a DRC for more information.

Representatives of the state, federal and voluntary agencies, as well as customer service representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration, are available to answer questions and provide recovery information. Written materials about various assistance programs also are available to individuals and business owners. **No cash, checks, debit cards or vouchers are distributed at the DRC.** The center is for the dissemination of information to assist in victim recovery.

Another DRC currently is open at 1607 Martin Luther King Blvd., Americus, GA – Gertrude Davenport Bldg. Hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Donations Needed

To assist the victims in disaster recovery, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) said donations may be delivered to the following locations:

- Baker County: 139 Roosevelt Street in Newton, GA - the old East Baker School. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.
- Sumter County: Americus-Sumter Exposition Center, 903 Adderton Street, Americus, GA. Hours are 9 a.m., to 6 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Needed items include individual-sized cans of non-perishable foods with pull tabs, canned meats, self-heating meals, baby formula, baby diapers (all sizes), personal hygiene products, mosquito repellent, manual can openers, leather gloves, tarps, cleaning supplies, such as bleach, mops, brooms and buckets, plastic goods (cups and cutlery), paper goods (plates, napkins, towels and toilet tissue), disposable gloves (rubber or latex), trash bags (all sizes) and small kitchen appliances. Due to lack of storage, donations of used clothing are not needed.

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Both facilities are managed by Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response on behalf of GEMA. The contacts are Hew and Carolyn Lipscomb at (229) 931-9386.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, economic status or retaliation. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or contact your State Office of Equal Rights. If suspicious of any abuse of FEMA programs, please contact the fraud hotline at 1-800-323-8603.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident, initiates mitigation activities and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA works closely with state and local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, firefighters and other first responders. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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Editors: For more information on Georgia disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov or www.gema.state.ga.us