



GEMA

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FEMA

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SEVEN DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS TO CLOSE, BUT HELP REMAINS A PHONE CALL AWAY

ATLANTA – Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) that were opened temporarily in seven locations to provide tornado victims an opportunity to meet in person with recovery specialists will be closing, according to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which jointly operate the centers. The one in Swainsboro will close Friday, while six others are closing Saturday; however, tornado victims can visit one of four centers that remain open. A list is below. Applicants can also continue to register for assistance and have their questions answered by calling FEMA and other agencies.

“Even though these recovery centers are closing, applications for disaster assistance are still being accepted,” said FEMA’s Jeff Bryant, federal coordinating officer. “Georgians whose homes, businesses or personal property were damaged in the May tornadoes have until July 22 to register with FEMA either by phone or on the Internet. They are also invited to visit any of the recovery centers that will remain open into next week.”

The DRCs are staffed by representatives of federal, state and voluntary agencies to answer questions about disaster assistance programs. Applicants also can go to DRCs to check on the status of their applications, request additional assistance, report changes in their contact information or get help with their disaster loan applications.

“All those same services will still be available by phone and online,” said Deputy State Coordinating Officer Joe McKinney. “People can call the FEMA help line, go to the agency’s Web site or contact the U.S. Small Business Administration for help with their applications.”

Since the first DRCs opened in hard-hit Bibb County on May 25, more than 2,000 people have visited a DRC. Almost 4,000 have registered with FEMA for assistance. FEMA has provided more than \$1 million in federal assistance.

Federal and state officials continue to urge affected individuals and business owners who have not already done so to apply for assistance by calling **800-621-FEMA (3362)**. For those who are speech or hearing impaired, the TTY number is **800-462-7585**. Both lines are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EDT seven days a week. FEMA’s Web site is at www.fema.gov.

As the result of a presidential disaster declaration on May 23, individuals in 10 Georgia counties may be eligible for federal help with damages from the May 11-12 storms. The counties are Bibb, Carroll, Douglas, Emanuel, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Laurens, McIntosh and Twiggs.

(MORE)

**Disaster Recovery Centers
Hours as Listed**

Bibb County

Bruce Elementary School
3660 Houston Ave.
Macon, GA 31206
Open Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Until Further Notice

Carroll County

Industrial Training Building
Carrollton Campus
West Georgia Technical College
166 Education Drive
Carrollton, GA 30116
Open Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Until Further Notice

Douglas County

Bright Star United Methodist Church
3715 Bright Star Road
Douglasville, GA 30134
8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Closing Permanently Sat., June 7
at 7 p.m.

McIntosh County

Coastal Worship Center
14760 Georgia Highway 99
Darien, GA 31305
8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Closing Permanently Sat., June 7
at 7 p.m.

Jenkins County

Jenkins County Senior Citizens Center
928 East College Avenue
Millen, GA 30442
8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Closing Permanently Sat., June 7
at 7 p.m.

Laurens County

East Laurens Primary School Gym
U.S. Highway 80 East
Dublin, GA 31027
8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Closing Permanently Sat., June 7
at 7 p.m.

Bibb County

Bloomfield Middle School
4375 Bloomfield Drive
Macon, GA 31206
Open Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Until Further Notice

Johnson County

Johnson County School
150 Trojan Way
Wrightsville, GA 31096
Open Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Until Further Notice

Emanuel County

Varner 4-H Center
220 South Circle Drive
Swainsboro, GA 30401
8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Closing Permanently Fri., June 6
at 7 p.m.

Johnson County

Kite Fire Department City Hall
102 Railroad Street
Kite, GA 31049
8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Closing Permanently Sat., June 7
at 7 p.m.

Twiggs County

Dry Branch Fire Department
5328 Old Gordon Road
Dry Branch, GA 31020
8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Closing Permanently Sat., June 7
at 7 p.m.

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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.georgia911.org