



GEMA



FEMA

Disaster News

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For Georgia Counties

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS IN TIFT AND DECATUR COUNTIES TO CLOSE AND REOPEN AS DISASTER LOAN OUTREACH CENTERS

ATLANTA – The temporary state/federal Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in Decatur and Tift counties will transition to U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Outreach Centers (DLOCs), the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today.

“People in Decatur and Tift counties may still get assistance by phoning FEMA’s toll-free Helpline,” said GEMA Director Charley English. “The SBA presence is another step in reaching out with assistance to Georgians who experienced losses from the late March and early April storms and flooding.”

Individuals can register with FEMA online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling the **FEMA Helpline** 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. Applicants who have already registered also can check the status of their applications and get many questions answered about the process.

“FEMA remains committed to providing access through a variety of resources for all affected Georgia residents,” noted Terry Quarles, Federal Coordinating Officer for Georgia disaster recovery. “It is important to stay in touch with FEMA by using the Helpline to check on the status of an application, to update contact information, to change an inspection appointment, to update other application information, or to ask other recovery- related questions.”

Closing Today

A Mobile Disaster Recovery Center (MDRC) is operating in **Echols County** at Echols County Community Center, 148 Church of God St., Statenville, through Thursday, May 7, when it closes at 7 p.m.

(MORE)

Closing Saturday

In **Mitchell County**, a MDRC is open at the Mitchell County Building, 4767 Highway 37, Camilla, through Saturday, May 9, when it closes at 4 p.m.

The DRC at Chamber 1, 1213 Vada Rd., Bainbridge in **Decatur County** will end operations at 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 9. On Monday, May 11, SBA will reopen the facility as a Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC).

The DRC at the **Tift County** Special Purpose Building, 202 Baldwin Dr., Tifton will end operations at 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 9. On Monday, May 11, SBA will open a Disaster Loan Outreach Center at the same location.

SBA is the nation's primary source of assistance to homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes in federally declared disasters. SBA disaster loan interest rates are as low as 2.187 percent for homeowners and renters, and 4 percent for businesses, with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based upon each applicant's financial condition.

SBA loans are an important part of the recovery process. Applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to the SBA to be considered for FEMA grants that cover personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

SBA representatives at the DLOCs are able to provide disaster loan applications, answer questions, explain the application process, and help individuals complete their loan applications. For more information, visit SBA's Web site at: www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance, call 800-659-2955, or e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Those with damages may also apply for disaster loans from SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>

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>