



GEMA



FEMA

Disaster News

May 8, 2009
GA-1833-NR-017
State/FEMA Media Contact:
866-993-0144

MOBILE DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER OPEN IN LANIER COUNTY

ATLANTA – A Mobile Disaster Recovery Center (Mobile DRC) operated by the State of Georgia and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is open in Lanier County to assist people affected by the storms and flooding in late March and early April.

“Individuals who reside in disaster-declared counties and suffered losses can receive person-to-person assistance at the center from specialists skilled in many disaster-related subjects,” said Georgia Emergency Management Agency Director Charley English.

The Mobile DRC is parked at the Lakeland Fire Department at 6 Park Road in Lakeland. The recovery center will be open noon-7 p.m. today (Friday) and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. The center is closed Sunday, but will be open Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Disaster officials ask that before visiting a center, 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 available seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Help in all languages is available.

When registering, applicants should have the following information readily available:

- Current and pre-disaster address;
- Current telephone numbers;
- Social Security number, if available;
- Insurance coverage, policy number(s) and agent’s name if possible.

Registration takes about 20 minutes and an application number is assigned.

Once an individual has registered, FEMA disaster recovery specialists can check on an individual’s case, answer questions about the application, or review information FEMA needs to process the application. Recovery specialists can supply contacts for other programs that may be able to help.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) representatives will be on hand at the MDRC in Lakeland to meet with individuals and business owners to answer questions about the SBA’s low-interest disaster loan program. Homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations may apply loans to repair or replace real estate and/or personal property damaged by the late March and early April storms and flooding.

(MORE)

MDRC OPEN IN LANIER COUNTY – Page 2

Applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to the SBA to be considered for low-interest loans and FEMA grants that cover personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

Representatives will help complete and accept SBA disaster loan applications. Anyone not able to go to a DRC may obtain help by calling the SBA Customer Service Center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., at 800-659-2955. Information and assistance also are available by visiting the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance or sending an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Those with disaster-related damage can also apply for low-interest loans at SBA's secure Web site at <https://diasterloan.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.

###

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>