



GEMA

FOR GEORGIA COUNTIES

Disaster News



FEMA

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State/FEMA Media Contact:
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HELP SENIORS AND THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS APPLY FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE; AID NOT A THREAT TO OTHER BENEFITS

ATLANTA – The flood waters have receded, but neighbors still need to help neighbors.

Seniors and people with disabilities affected by the flooding and spring storms of March 26 through April 13 may need a hand applying for disaster assistance, said state and federal disaster officials.

“The aftermath of a disaster can be especially difficult to deal with for seniors and those with special needs,” said Georgia Emergency Management Agency Director Charley English. “They may not be aware of what help is available and, because of that, haven’t registered for disaster assistance.”

Registering for disaster assistance is as easy as calling the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or (TTY) **800-462-7585**. Family members, friends or neighbors can make the call with the affected senior or person with special needs to help them through the registration process. They also can register online at **www.DisasterAssistance.gov**.

Disaster assistance grants are not considered taxable income and will not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicaid, welfare assistance, and food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

“Concerns about a reduction in Social Security benefits shouldn’t keep seniors from applying for federal disaster assistance,” said FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Terry Quarles.

Individual assistance is available to people in 21 South Georgia counties: Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Camden, Coffee, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Montgomery, Pierce, Tattnall, Tift, Ware, Wheeler, and Worth.

For information on how to cope with the stress of a disaster, go online to The Disaster Mental Health Web site (www.westga.edu/~gadmh) sponsored by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Georgia Division of Public Health and Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases.

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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>