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FOR GEORGIA COUNTIES

Disaster News

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MOBILE DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER OPENS IN EARLY 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 Early County through Thursday, May 28, to assist people affected by the March 26-April 13 storms and flooding.

The Mobile DRC is parked at the Early County Alternative School, 544 Howell St., Blakely, Ga. 39823. It is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. for three days only: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

If possible, before visiting a center, people should 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, 7 a.m. to 10 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 at the MDRC can answer questions about assistance and review the information FEMA needs to process the application. Recovery specialists may also be able to supply contacts for other helpful programs.

FEMA can help eligible applicants with grants to pay for uninsured home repairs, temporary housing, personal property and other serious needs caused by the disaster. Help may be available even if repairs have already been made. People with insurance should register for assistance, because they may find, after their claims are settled, that they are under-insured or have unmet needs. Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are available to eligible borrowers to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

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U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) representatives will be on-hand at the Mobile DRC in Blakely to meet with individuals and business owners and answer questions about the SBA's low-interest disaster loan program. Homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and most private non-profit organizations may apply for loans to repair or replace real estate and/or personal property damaged by the March 26-April 13 storms and flooding.

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