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DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER OPENS IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

ATLANTA — A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) operated by the state of Georgia and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) opened today in Douglas County for those affected earlier this week by severe storms and flooding.

The DRC at Lithia Springs First United Methodist Church at 3711 Temple Street in Lithia Springs is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

People who suffered losses can get person-to-person assistance at the centers from specialists skilled in many disaster-related subjects.

Disaster officials ask that before visiting the centers, 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 staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice. Help in all languages is available.

Disaster recovery specialists at the recovery center can check the case status of an applicant, answer questions about the claim, or review information needed to process the claim. Recovery specialists also can supply contacts for other programs that may be able to help.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) representatives will be at the DRC to answer any questions about the SBA's low-interest disaster loan program for homeowners, renters, businesses and private non-profit organizations of all sizes. These loans are to repair or replace real estate and/or personal property damaged by the storms and flooding.

Representatives will help complete and accept SBA disaster loan application. Anyone not able to go to a DRC should call the SBA Customer Service Center from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., EST, toll-free at 800-659-2955 for information and assistance, or visit the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance or send an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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> or www.afcema.com