



GEMA



FEMA

# News Release

November 2, 2009  
GA-1858-NR-063  
**GEMA/FEMA News Desk:**  
**678-728-7531**

*This capsule of recent disaster recovery news is provided by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).*

## **Flood Aid Tops \$75 Million in Georgia**

Forty days after devastating flooding, more than \$75 million in federal assistance has been approved to help survivors get their lives back in order. Almost \$49.5 million in GEMA/FEMA disaster assistance grants and more than \$25.8 million in low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) have been approved to aid in recovery of the 17 counties declared for individual assistance.

More than 25,000 people have applied for assistance and officials are working hard to make sure everyone who may be eligible for assistance has registered with FEMA before the Nov. 23 deadline.

Register for assistance by calling **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 800-462-7585**. Help is available in all languages. Registration is available online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov). Those with questions can also visit with FEMA representatives in SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers.

## **Preparedness Costs Little, Saves a Lot**

Just as every home should have a smoke alarm, every home should have an emergency supply kit packed and ready. And being prepared doesn't have to cost a lot of money; most items can be found in the home.

The GEMA Web site – [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov) – includes an emergency kit checklist, interactive games for children and information for businesses on how to prepare for a disaster. The site includes a Google Translate link that will translate Web pages into other languages.

An emergency preparedness kit includes food and water for each member of the family for three days, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, flashlight, spare batteries, first aid kit, non-electric can opener, local maps, paper towels, moist towelettes, toilet paper, garbage bags and plastic ties.

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Include sleeping bags or blankets, books, puzzles and games for children and pet food for family pets. Have cash in case ATMs are not operating. Emergency supplies can be stored in an easy-to-carry plastic storage container or duffel bag.

More information on emergency preparedness, including how to put together a family communication plan, can be found at FEMA's emergency preparedness Web site [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) or <http://www.listo.gov/>

### **Businesses Prep Is a Big Deal, Too**

Keeping the front door open after any major disruption should be a big deal for every business in Georgia. Businesses that plan for disaster can expect less property damage, economic loss and down time than those that do not..

A good plan will include relocating to a different site; preserving employee, customer and vendor records; and spelling out how to operate efficiently with a smaller staff of key individuals.

Internet resources are available to help. FEMA provides a step-by-step approach to emergency planning, response and recovery with case studies in the business library at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). FEMA offers detailed information about family and business preparedness at [www.ready.gov/Your-Business](http://www.ready.gov/Your-Business).

The SBA Web site, [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov), has disaster preparation tips and a list of topics business owners should consider in planning.

The non-profit Institute for Business and Home Safety offers an **Open for Business Toolkit** through its Web site, [www.ibhs.org](http://www.ibhs.org), under the "Get Prepared" menu. The kit provides 13 planning forms that take a reader through all steps.

An equally important part of any business plan is adequate insurance to cover damage from perils such as fire, flood and wind. Businesses should check with their agents to find out whether they are covered against risks that accompany the location of their property, type of facilities and business operations.

### **Ready, Pet, Go.....**

Flooding raised awareness throughout Georgia of the need to include pets in family emergency plans that spell out how you will round up and carry pets and where you are all going. If your family goes to a public shelter, keep in mind that pets may not be allowed inside.

### ***Friends Can Help***

Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that a pet care buddy is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Show them where you keep your pet's emergency supply kit. Pets will need food, water, meds and sanitation on the road, just like at home.

### ***Keep Track of Fido***

Talk with your veterinarian about a microchip. If you and your pet are separated, this permanent implant for your pet can help a veterinarian or shelter identify Fido if he shows up there after an adventure.

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***Final Touches***

Obtain “Pets Inside” stickers and place them on your doors or windows to provide information on the number and types of pets in your home for firefighters and rescue workers. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you can be reached in an emergency. If you take your pets with you, remember to remove the stickers or mark them out.

For more information and checklists to help you make emergency plans for your pets, visit GEMA’s [www.ready.ga.gov/Prepare/Pets](http://www.ready.ga.gov/Prepare/Pets).

*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.*

*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](http://www.fema.gov) or [www.gema.ga.gov](http://www.gema.ga.gov) or [www.ready.ga.gov/](http://www.ready.ga.gov/) or <http://twitter.com/GeorgiaEMA>