



GEMA



FEMA

News Release

November 9, 2009
GA-1858-NR-069
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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).

Monday, Nov. 23 is the final day to register for FEMA assistance and to return disaster loan applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Call **800-621-FEMA (3362)**, **TTY 800-462-7585** or register online at www.disasterassistance.gov.

DISASTER GRANTS WON'T AFFECT SOCIAL SECURITY OR TAXES

Half a million people affected by Georgia's recent flooding disaster are receiving Social Security benefits, but they need not worry about disaster recovery grants affecting their benefits.

"Disaster recovery grants provided to individuals and families have no impact on your Social Security or Supplemental Security Income benefits," said Kenneth R. Chaney, Georgia area director for the U.S. Social Security Administration.

In addition, federal disaster recovery grants to individuals generally will not affect federal income tax liability. The IRS instructs taxpayers not to include FEMA disaster relief grants as income on their tax returns. See IRS Publication 547 for more details.

Eligibility for these other benefit programs also is unaffected by FEMA grants:

- Medicare
- Welfare assistance
- Food stamps
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Other programs funded by the U.S. Government

FREE ADVICE FOR SAFE REBUILDING

This week is the final week for one-on-one information on disaster resistant building and repair, known as mitigation, from FEMA staff in area home improvement stores. Rebuilding specialists will be staffing informational displays through Friday at the following locations:

**Home Depot
145 Depot Rd.
Hiram, GA 30141**

**Lowe's
10580 Duke Dr.
Alpharetta, GA 30004**

**Lowe's
2650 Dallas Hwy SW
Marietta, GA 30064**

**Lowe's
955 Bullsboro Dr.
Newnan, GA 30265**

**Lowe's
2035 Beaver Ruin Rd.
Norcross, GA 30071**

Hours will be as follows:

Saturday, Nov. 7: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 8: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 9: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 10: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 11: Informational materials only
Thursday, Nov. 12: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 13: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

More than 27,000 Georgians have received advice on ways to repair or improve their homes and businesses to reduce or prevent future disaster damages, such as:

- Reducing mold and mildew
- Protecting electrical systems, furnaces and other appliances
- Reinforcing structures against high winds and flooding
- Safeguarding valuables
- Securing other important personal property

Reference booklets and information on flood insurance are free and provided in English and Spanish. No registration is required.

BY THE NUMBERS as of 11/5/09

- 116** Cities, counties and other public organizations that applied to GEMA for Public Assistance funding.
- 843** Approved disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration to help individuals, families and businesses get back on their feet.

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- 2,600** Approximate number of damaged or destroyed buildings due to the severe storms and flooding of mid-September.
- 23,000** Inspections of homes so FEMA can determine eligibility for housing assistance.
- 26,000** Families, individuals and businesses registered with FEMA.
- 150,000** Cubic yards of debris in the disaster areas — enough to fill 10,000 large dump trucks. Nearly 60,000 cubic yards has been removed.
- \$31 million** Total in loans provided by the SBA. Low-interest loans of up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, and inventory, and to offset the cost of business disruptions.
- \$51 million** FEMA grants provided to families for minimal home repairs, temporary housing, personal property and other serious disaster-related needs.
- \$82 million** Combined total of federal disaster assistance provided so far to individuals, families and businesses for Georgia flood recovery.

SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers Open Mondays through Fridays (Closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day Holiday)

Cherokee County

Parks and Recreation Gym
7545 Main Street
Building 200
Woodstock, GA 30188
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DeKalb County

Browns Mill Recreation Center
5101 Browns Mill Road
Lithonia, GA 30058
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fulton County

Government Center
141 Pryor Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cobb County

The Threadmill
Suite 120
5000 Austell/Powder Springs Rd.
Austell, GA 30106
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Douglas County

Old Douglas County
Courthouse
6754 Broad Street
Douglasville, GA 30134
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Gwinnett County

Mountain Park Depot
5050 Five Forks Trickum Rd.
Lilburn, GA 30047
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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.

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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>