



GEMA



FEMA

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News Release

FLOOD-RELATED AID TO INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES IN GEORGIA EXPECTED TO EXCEED \$300 MILLION

ATLANTA – Local, state and federal recovery assistance is expected to exceed \$300 million following the historic flooding last September in central and northwest Georgia. Thousands of homes and businesses were affected and tens of thousands of people sought assistance from the State of Georgia, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other federal agencies.

By the numbers:

- **\$158 million** – Estimated to repair or restore damaged infrastructure. The FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program, which reimburses 75 percent of eligible costs, has already approved \$50 million. Nearly 2,400 project worksheets were submitted by 114 local governments and state agencies.
- **\$67 million** –U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans. \$51 million to 1,636 homeowners and renters and \$16 million to 203 businesses.
- **\$57 million** –FEMA grants and loans to individuals, families and businesses. \$49 million for Housing Assistance and \$7.8 million for Other Needs Assistance.
- **\$44 million** – Hazard mitigation funding to save lives, property and money in the future.

“We remain actively involved in permanent recovery efforts with our local and federal partners to make communities safer and more flood resistant,” said Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) Director Charley English. “There also has been vital support provided by the private sector and the volunteer community.”

Gracia Szczech, the federal official in charge of the FEMA recovery effort, said: “In the long-term recovery phase of the disaster we will continue to work together to make sure the people and communities affected receive all eligible assistance.”

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English said the 2009 floods are a reminder to Georgians of the need to prepare for floods. Though floods can occur without much warning, there are steps that anyone can take to limit damages or injury. GEMA's Ready Georgia campaign (www.ready.ga.gov) offers information to help individuals and families prepare, plan and stay informed about floods.

At that Web site, Georgians can create a Ready Profile to get a list of supplies, contact numbers and meeting places customized for their family so everyone will know what to do in an emergency.

"I urge everyone who lives here to visit www.ready.ga.gov to learn about the dangers of flooding and create a family emergency plan," he said.

For more information on how to buy a flood insurance policy or on ICC coverage, call the NFIP at 888-435-6637 or go online to www.floodsmart.gov.

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.

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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>