



GEMA

FOR GEORGIA COUNTIES



FEMA

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Disaster News

MITIGATION A BIG PART OF THE GEORGIA RECOVERY PROCESS

ATLANTA - Georgia and federal disaster officials know one thing for certain ... they cannot stop disasters. But they are working together to show Georgia residents cost-effective ways to reduce future disaster damages.

In the aftermath of the March 26 – April 13 storms and flooding across southern Georgia, residents are picking up the pieces and putting their lives back together. They've started the recovery process and are looking to the future.

Many Georgia residents have met with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation specialists at disaster recovery centers and at community events. The specialists have provided tips and answered questions about protecting homes and businesses from future disasters. Georgians also were able to take advantage of an assortment of free FEMA publications on mitigation topics.

So, what can Georgians do to lessen future disaster damage?

There are steps they can take to protect their homes inside and out from the effects of floods, severe storms and other weather-related threats. The steps range from landscaping to wiring and from do-it-yourself projects to more complicated work that could require a contractor. There are lots of ways to protect your home. Here are a few ideas:

- Relocate main electric switchbox above potential floodwaters
- Relocate electric outlets and switches above potential floodwaters
- Move washer and dryer to a higher floor
- Elevate furnace and water heater
- Have a licensed plumber install a backflow valve to prevent sewer backup
- Purchase flood insurance; go to www.floodsmart.gov or call toll-free **1-888-275-6347** or **TTY 1-800-427-5593**
- Build a safe room.

(MORE)

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Further mitigation information can be found online by visiting www.FEMA.gov. Information also is as close as the telephone. Dial FEMA's Helpline at **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 800-462-7585**. Help in all languages is available.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) also offers mitigation loans to disaster survivors based on 20 percent of the SBA verified physical damage. These funds are designed to help borrowers pay for protective measures to minimize damages of the same kind in the future. Disaster loan information can be obtained by calling SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955.

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.

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>

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