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News Release

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TOPS \$200 MILLION IN TENNESSEE RECOVERY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – More than **\$200 million** in federal disaster grants and low-interest loans has been approved for those affected by the Tennessee storms and flooding as the July 6 deadline to register for help approaches.

Since President Obama declared a major disaster declaration May 4, nearly **62,000 people** have registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for federal assistance.

More than **\$135 million** in Individual Assistance has been approved (**\$117.8 million** in housing assistance, such as rental and home repair assistance, and **\$17.7 million** in other needs assistance, such as personal property lost due to the storm).

More than **\$65.1 million** in U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest disaster loans have been approved following the severe storms and flooding between April 30 and May 18.

The following is a recap of activities and assistance provided by FEMA and its partners:

- To help identify and assist disaster survivors, teams of state and FEMA Community Relations field specialists have visited more than **26,000** homes, businesses and numerous community-based organizations, schools, town halls and houses of worship, and reached out to local officials, the senior population, the visually impaired, deaf and those with limited English proficiency.
- **8,017** residents received counseling from FEMA Mitigation specialists at local home improvement centers on ways to lessen vulnerability in future disasters and **22,204 residents** received **15,036 publications** with risk-reduction advice.
- There were more than **15,000** visits to a total of **64 separate Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs)** established by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and FEMA to speed recovery in the **45 counties** declared for Individual Assistance. There are now **15 DRCs** open in the disaster-designated counties, where specialists are available to answer questions for applicants and review information FEMA needs to process applications for disaster assistance.

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- **358,959 employees and customers** in business organizations and companies received disaster recovery information through networks developed by FEMA's Private Sector division.

Those affected by the storms and flooding can register or get answers to questions by telephoning **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or (TTY) **800-462-7585**. They also can register online anytime at www.disasterassistance.gov. To be eligible for FEMA assistance, they must register by July 6, 2010.

Many options are available to storm and flood survivors to take charge of their recovery, whether they are still waiting to find out if they are eligible for disaster assistance or have already received it. Here are some tips and resources to help applicants proceed along the road to a smart recovery.

REGISTER BEFORE THE DEADLINE ON JULY 6

If you had damage from the severe storms and flooding that took place between April 30 and May 18, the deadline to register is July 6. Register with FEMA online at www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or (TTY) **800-462-7585**.

FOLLOW-UP

If you have questions, call the Helpline at **800-621-3362** or visit a Disaster Recovery Center. Locations can be found at asd.fema.gov/inter/locator/drcLocator.jsp.

If you receive a disaster loan application from the SBA, complete and return it, even if you are not interested in taking out a loan. Failure to fill out an SBA application will prevent referral for other possible federal assistance.

HOUSING

For those who have been displaced and need a home to rent, thousands of rental listings can be found at FEMA's housing portal at asd.fema.gov/inter/hportal/home.htm. Also, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency sponsors a free, statewide rental housing database of available properties. Online access is available at TNHousingSearch.org or by calling **877-428-8844**.

Families who do not have many rental resource options in their area or who would like to live on their property while they make repairs to their home are permitted to use FEMA assistance grants toward the purchase or rental of a trailer, RV or manufactured housing.

JOB LOSS DUE TO DISASTER

You may be eligible for unemployment assistance if the storms and flooding affected your ability to work. File a claim at **877-813-0950**. For information about deadlines and locations go to http://www.tennessee.gov/labor-wfd/unemployment_dua.html.

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LOW-INTEREST LOANS

The SBA offers low-interest, long-term disaster loans to homeowners and renters as well as businesses. Find more information at www.sba.gov.

CRISIS COUNSELING

It is normal to experience stress while rebuilding after a disaster. If you feel you are having trouble coping, short-term crisis counseling referrals are available at any nearby Disaster Recovery Center or online at www.tn.gov/mental. Or call **800-809-9957**.

LEGAL SERVICES

Call the disaster legal assistance hotline at **888-395-9297**. This is a joint project by the Tennessee Bar Association, the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Assistance, the American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division and local legal organizations. The hotline is a source of advice on insurance claims, landlord-tenant problems, home repair contracts, mortgage foreclosure problems, replacement of legal documents and other disaster-related matters.

VOLUNTEER HELP

If you need additional clothing, furniture or other supplies, call Tennessee's **2-1-1** line. You may also be eligible for assistance with cleaning your house, removing mold and other flood-related household repairs.

Follow the recovery in Tennessee online at <http://twitter.com/tema>, www.twitter.com/femainfocus, <http://www.facebook.com/TNDisasterInfo>, www.youtube.com/fema and http://www.flickr.com/photos/t_e_m_a.

The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA and TEMA do not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.

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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