



# FEMA

## E-News Update for Tennessee Businesses

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### **APPLYING FOR FEMA DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Often, the first step to recovery is making sure your employees are ready and able to come back to work. In counties designated for Individual Assistance, your employees, whether homeowners or renters, if affected by the floods, can apply for assistance. Visit [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) online any time or call 1-800-621-3362 or (TTY 1-800-462-7585) from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Help is available in all languages. The deadline to register is July 6, 2010.

**Note: Please remind your employees, if they received a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loan application, to be considered for any further assistance, they must fill out and return their application by July 6<sup>th</sup>.**

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### **KEY MESSAGE:**

**Take Charge of Your Recovery.** Many available options can help storm and flood survivors 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. Help is still only a phone call away. If you have questions or still need to register, call the helpline. You can also check to see which [Disaster Recovery Centers and/or SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers](#) are in your area for face-to-face assistance.

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### **FROM RECOVERY TO LOAN OUTREACH:**

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) opened temporary recovery centers soon after counties were declared eligible for Individual Assistance in response to the severe storms and flooding that occurred between April 30 and May 18, 2010.

TEMA and FEMA established a total of 66 separate Disaster Recovery Center operations to speed recovery in the 45 counties declared for Individual Assistance.

“More than 13,000 Tennessee residents have visited the Disaster Recovery Centers to ask questions and get help with applications for assistance,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Gracia B. Szczech. “The number of visits is declining, which is why we are closing several of them and transitioning others to loan outreach centers. However, people from any county can continue to visit any of the recovery centers that remain open.”

“Although TEMA and FEMA are closing these centers, we want to assure all of those affected by the flooding that our specialists will continue to be available. FEMA will continue to be represented at the SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center.”

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## VALUABLE RESOURCES:

Here are some tips and resources to help applicants proceed along the road to a smart recovery:

### REGISTER BEFORE THE DEADLINE – 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 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362) (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 <https://asd.fema.gov/inter/locator/drcLocator.jsp>
- **If you receive a disaster loan application from the U.S. Small Business Administration (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 <http://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 [www.TNHousingSearch.org](http://www.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](http://www.tennessee.gov/labor-wfd/unemployment_dua.html).

### DONATIONS PORTAL

- If you are a company or an organization with access to large volumes of items and would like to donate them to disaster relief effort or other humanitarian efforts, please visit <http://www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/fema/states.aspx?ST=Tennessee>. This portal is designed to make it easy to donate financial support, product donations, or to volunteer your skills and time to the nonprofit organizations that most need it.

## LOW-INTEREST LOANS

- The SBA offers low-interest, long-term disaster loans to homeowners, renters, and nonprofits as well as businesses of all sizes. Find more information at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

## CRISIS COUNSELING

- It is normal to experience stress when 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, online at [www.tn.gov/mental](http://www.tn.gov/mental), or by phone at 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.

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### **FEDERAL ASSISTANCE UPDATE:**

Tennessee (Close of Business June 10, 2010)

In the 45 counties that have been designated for Individual Assistance, disaster assistance continues to flow to Tennesseans with more than **61,700 disaster survivors** having registered with FEMA. Over **\$134.8 million** in disaster grants and low-interest loans have been approved since the declaration, (**\$117.2 million** for housing assistance and **\$17.6 million** for Other Needs) as well as **\$62.7 million** in loans approved by SBA since the major disaster declaration May 4, 2010.

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### **FEMA'S PRIVATE SECTOR DIVISION**

This E-News Update is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of External Affairs, which is part of the federal response to DR-1909-TN. For more information, please visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). You can also follow FEMA/TEMA's flood response on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/TNDisasterInfo>. If you no longer wish to receive these Private Sector E-News Updates, reply with "REMOVE" in the subject line. If someone forwarded you this email and you would like to be added to the distribution list, send an email with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line to [Leslie.Moore@fema.gov](mailto:Leslie.Moore@fema.gov) or [Jenefeness.Clark@fema.gov](mailto:Jenefeness.Clark@fema.gov).