



FEMA

E-News Update for Tennessee Businesses

APPLYING FOR FEMA DISASTER ASSISTANCE DEADLINE EXTENDED

Often, the first step to recovery is making sure your employees are ready and able to come back to work. If you or your employees were affected by the disaster, you are encouraged to register by Aug. 5, 2010, at www.DisasterAssistance.gov online any time, or call 800-621-3362 or TTY 800-462-7585 from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Help is available in all languages.

KEY MESSAGES:

The registration deadline has been extended. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved a request from the state of Tennessee for a 30-day extension of the deadline to register for federal assistance for those affected by the severe storms and flooding between April 30 and May 18, 2010. Tennesseans can now file for Individual Assistance through **Aug. 5, 2010**. Likewise, the deadline to submit loan applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has also been extended through Aug. 5, 2010. While no one is required to take out an SBA loan, applications are a key part of the FEMA registration process. A loan denial may open up other assistance to eligible applicants.

FEMA has also granted a 30-day extension of the deadline for filing a proof-of-loss claims for policyholders who experienced loss from the flooding that occurred between April 30 and May 5, 2010. The 30-day extension applies to all claims for flood-insured homes and businesses in Tennessee damaged by flooding between April 30 and May 5, 2010.

The president's official disaster declaration on May 4 covers flooding and severe storms that occurred between April 30 and May 18, 2010. For the purposes of flood insurance, the Tennessee flooding occurred between April 30 and May 5, 2010.

The National Flood Insurance Program usually requires policyholders to submit a fully documented, signed and sworn proof-of-loss claim within 60 days from the date of their loss. The deadline is now 90 days from the date of their loss.

The extension was requested by the state of Tennessee to give policyholders additional time because of the magnitude of the flooding.

The deadline for proof-of-loss filing for flood insurance is separate and distinct from the deadline to register for FEMA assistance.

DISASTER LOAN PACKAGE:

The number of SBA disaster loan packages returned by flood survivors is low, according to concerned recovery officials. What individuals may not know is that the SBA disaster loan application is absolutely essential to their recovery. Low interest loans from the SBA are the primary funding source to assist eligible homeowners to return their property to its pre-disaster condition. Being approved for a loan does not obligate applicants to accept it. And for those who do not qualify for a loan, additional FEMA assistance may be available.

If you have questions about the SBA loan process, you can talk with SBA representatives at any [Disaster Recovery Center \(DRC\) or Disaster Loan Operations Center \(DLOC\)](#). Applicants can also turn in their loan package at any DRC or DLOC. Representatives of the SBA will send completed applications overnight to the SBA office for processing.

Interest rates as low as 2.75 percent for homeowners and renters, 3 percent for nonprofit organizations, and 4 percent for businesses, coupled with payment terms as long as 30 years, are intended to make the loans affordable. Homeowners can borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace their primary residence. Homeowners and renters can borrow up to \$40,000 to replace personal property. Businesses may borrow up to \$2 million for physical or economic injury loans.

Homeowners, renters, nonprofit organizations and businesses of all sizes can apply for SBA loans to pay for recovery costs not covered by insurance or other sources. People with home-based businesses or rental property who have been affected by the floods may also be eligible for SBA loans. Before applying for a SBA loan, you must register with FEMA either online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or TTY **800-462-7585** for those with speech and hearing disabilities. The toll-free numbers are staffed every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

APPEALING THE DECISION:

If you receive a notification letter from FEMA, carefully read the information and instructions regarding your application for assistance. If you still have questions, call FEMA's Helpline at 800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 800-462-7585. You may also visit a Disaster Recovery Center where you can get one-on-one help or follow up on the status of your application.

FEMA notification letters may refer to issues with an application, such as:

- A missed appointment with an inspector;
- Insufficient storm damage;
- Adequate insurance coverage;
- A pending settlement with an insurance company;
- Failure to complete and return the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan application;
- Needing proof of identity;
- Needing proof of occupancy or ownership of damaged property;
- Needing documentation of disaster damage.

It is important to follow up if you receive correspondence from FEMA.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE UPDATE:

(As of close of business June 28, 2010)

In the 46 counties that have been designated for Individual Assistance by the federal declaration on May 4, disaster assistance continues to flow to Tennesseans. More than **64,118 disaster survivors** have registered with FEMA. Over **\$143 million** in disaster grants and low-interest loans have been approved since the declaration, (**\$124 million** for housing assistance and **\$19 million** for Other Needs). More than **\$102 million** in disaster loans has been approved by SBA.

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. 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 or Jenefeness.Clark@fema.gov.