



FEMA

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News Release

FEMA Assistance Based on Individual Loss, Needs

NORTH LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas residents who suffered damage in the severe spring storms should know that any disaster aid they may receive will be based on their unique circumstances and needs.

"We want everyone to receive the maximum assistance for which they are eligible," said Nancy M. Casper, federal coordinating officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster operations in Arkansas. "The amount and type of assistance an individual receives could be completely different from what his neighbor receives, even though the damages appear to be similar."

Residents of Crawford, Garland, Howard, Jefferson, Little River, Miller, Perry, Sebastian and Sevier counties affected by the severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding during the period of May 7 to June 15, 2015 may be eligible for disaster assistance. Residents are encouraged to register for assistance with FEMA; the deadline to do so is Aug. 25, 2015.

Registering with FEMA is a crucial first step in the process. Disaster assistance for individuals is based on a number of factors which can only be determined after registration.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses can register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362 (FEMA). Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362. Multilingual operators are available.

The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice. Multilingual operators are available.

The applicant's needs are evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the types of assistance that are available to that individual. The process and final assistance determination is set by federal law. Not everyone who registers will qualify, but to be considered for assistance you must register.

Assistance could include:

- charitable contributions from voluntary agencies
- grants to help pay for temporary housing needs, essential home repairs and other disaster-related expenses, and

-more-

- low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration to cover residential and business losses not fully covered by insurance.

More information on FEMA's Individual and Household Assistance Program can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/what-disaster-assistance>.

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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.