



FEMA

July 9, 2009
MO-1847-NR12
FEMA: News Desk 573-632-2195
SEMA: Susie Stonner 573-526-9136
SBA: 800-659-2955

Recovery News

FEMA COMMUNITY RELATIONS TEAMS GO KNOCKING DOOR TO DOOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Missouri – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Relations (CR) teams are working across the state of Missouri to reach out to individuals affected by the severe weather from May 8 – 16.

Teams of CR specialists advise residents, business owners, non-profit agencies and faith-based organizations how to register for disaster assistance. They also work to identify people with special needs, seniors and those with disabilities.

Easily identified by FEMA photo ID badges, CR representatives seek out any location where people affected by the disaster might be found. They provide information on how to access recovery resources, such as grants to help pay for temporary housing needs, essential home repairs and other disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration also may be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Individuals in 28 counties who sustained damages resulting from severe storms, tornadoes and flooding during the May 8 – 16 incident period, may be eligible for disaster assistance. Those counties are: Adair, Barry, Barton, Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Dent, Douglas, Greene, Howell, Iron, Jasper, Jefferson, Laclede, Lawrence, Madison, Newton, Ozark, Polk, Reynolds, Ripley, St. Francois, Shannon, Texas, Washington, and Webster counties.

Affected individuals may register for assistance by going to www.DisasterAssistance.gov or calling **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or, for the hearing- or speech-impaired, **(TTY) 800-462-7585**. Telephone lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time, while online registration is 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

###

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.

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 to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes,

and private nonprofit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and covers the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, nationality, age, disability, English proficiency, economic status, or retaliation. 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.

EDITORS: For more information on Missouri disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov or <http://sema.dps.mo.gov>.