



FEMA

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Congressional Advisory

Minnesota Residents Urged to Apply for Federal Disaster Assistance

Bloomington, Minn. – Residents of Blue Earth, Freeborn, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Rice, Steele and Waseca counties who suffered damages to their dwellings in the September 21-24 severe storms and flooding are encouraged to register for federal disaster assistance.

Insurance may cover some of the damage, but people may be missing out on additional assistance if they haven't registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Until a resident registers for assistance, FEMA has no way of knowing who suffered damages or what people need to help in their recovery. The only way to determine eligibility for federal disaster assistance is to register with FEMA.

Keep in mind:

- Calling your insurance agent does not register you with FEMA.
- Contacting county or municipal agencies does not register you with FEMA.
- Receiving assistance from voluntary agencies does not register you with FEMA.

Residents may register at www.disasterassistance.gov, with the FEMA app, or by calling 1-800-621-3362 (FEMA). TTY users may call 1-800-462-7585. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

“With the weather turning colder, it’s important that residents who suffered storm damage in these seven counties receive the help they need,” said Joe Kelly, director of the Homeland Security Emergency Management division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. “This presidential disaster declaration will provide federal assistance for eligible individuals and households, but only if residents apply. It’s important for homeowners and renters to contact FEMA directly to determine if they qualify for financial help.”

“We want to make sure residents impacted by the floods in the designated areas register as quickly as possible to start the FEMA disaster assistance process,” said FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer David Samaniego.

Before applicants go online or call, they should gather the following information to speed up the registration process:

- Social Security number

- Telephone number where they can be reached
- Address of the damaged property
- Current mailing address
- Brief description of disaster-related damages and losses
- Insurance information
- Direct deposit information to help speed delivery of funds if approved

The application deadline is January 28, 2017.

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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 800-621-3362 or TTY at 800-462-7585.

If you are Deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use TTY call 800-462-7585 to register. For those who use 711 or Video Relay Service, you may call 800-621-3362. All disaster recovery centers are accessible and equipped with equipment to accommodate disaster survivors who need disability-related communication access. If you require a reasonable accommodations (ASL interpreting, Braille, Large print, etc.) while visiting a Disaster Recovery Center, call 1-800-621-3362 (V/711/VRS) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY).

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.