

FEMA
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SCEPD
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Disaster Recovery News Summary

Note to Editors: Federal and state agencies are working in partnership to help South Carolina residents following Hurricane Floyd and subsequent flooding. The following is a summary of ongoing response and recovery efforts since the Presidential declaration of September 21.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE DOLLARS NOW OVER \$650,000

In the 10 days that the FEMA toll-free application line has been in operation, 5,293 disaster victims from declared counties have applied for disaster assistance. To date, a total of \$652,985 has been approved for disaster housing assistance grants and low-interest loans.

A primary concern of state and federal officials in the early phase of the recovery process is for people's housing needs. Housing assistance checks are some of the first forms of grant monies to be disbursed. They are issued in the form of grants for alternate rental housing, emergency repairs needed to make a residence habitable, and mortgage or rental assistance in cases where the disaster has caused extreme economic hardship.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved \$127,400 in low-interest loans for five homeowners in declared counties.

A county-by-county breakdown of applications made and disaster housing dollars approved follows:

COUNTY	APPLICATIONS	APPS. APPROVED	APPROVED \$\$
Berkeley	254	0	0
Charleston	1,514	108	\$ 110,815
Colleton	37	0	0
Georgetown	963	71	\$ 60,875
Horry	2,300	283	\$ 353,895
Marion	42	0	0
Williamsburg	183	0	0

TELEREGISTRATION & HELPLINE HOURS TO CHANGE

Beginning Monday, October 4, the FEMA toll-free teleregistration phone lines will be in operation from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., seven days a week, until further

notice. Those toll-free numbers are **1 800-462-9029** and **TTY 1 800-462-7585** for the speech and hearing impaired.

The FEMA Helplines - **1 800 525-0321** and **TTY 1 800-660-8005** - will also operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week, starting Monday, October 4. Operators on these lines can answer questions related to disaster assistance programs and services and make appropriate referrals to other agencies and organizations. These are not application lines.

The only way to apply for disaster assistance is to call toll-free at **1 800-462-9029**

(TTY 1 800-462-7585). "That one call," explains Federal Coordinating Officer Larry Bailey, "is your application for all types of federal and state assistance. It's the fastest, most efficient, and the only way to get the process underway."

DON'T WAIT TO CLEAN UP YOUR HOME

Flood victims in disaster-declared South Carolina counties who are returning to their homes are strongly urged by FEMA and SCEPD officials to clean up their residences as soon as they can. All flood-damaged items should be immediately removed for health and sanitation reasons regardless of whether or not a FEMA inspector has visited.

"You don't have to wait until an inspection has been completed to clean up your home and belongings," said Stan McKinney, State Coordinating Officer, South Carolina emergency Preparedness Division. "Photographs or other documentation of damaged items and areas will be helpful but not necessary to determine eligibility for assistance. We are most concerned that you take the precautions necessary to protect yourself and the members of your household."

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Note to Editor: Information on (disaster) is available on FEMA's homepage on the Internet at <http://www.fema.gov>. Information also is available through FEMA's 24-hour fax-on-demand service by calling (202) 646-FEMA.

Radio News Directors: For recorded actualities on response and recovery operations call the FEMA Radio Network at 1-800-323-5248.

YOU CAN HELP DISASTER VICTIMS MOST BY PUBLICIZING THESE TWO FREE ASSISTANCE APPLICATION NUMBERS

1-800-462-9029(TTY 1-800-462-7585)

8 AM TO MIDNIGHT