

Texas Survivors Affected by Winter Weather Can Apply for Federal Disaster Assistance thru FEMA

DENTON, Texas – Texas homeowners and renters in the 77 counties designated for individual assistance who sustained damage may now apply for disaster assistance with FEMA.

If you have insurance and are applying for disaster assistance, you must also file a claim with your insurance company as soon as possible. By law, FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance. If insurance does not cover all your damage, you may be eligible for federal assistance.

The fastest and easiest way to apply is by visiting www.disasterassistance.gov.

If it is not possible to register online, call 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585). The toll-free telephone lines operate from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT, seven days a week. Those who use a relay service such as a videophone, Innocaption or CapTel should update FEMA with your specific number assigned to that service.

When you apply for assistance, have the following information readily available:

- A current phone number where you can be contacted
- Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying
- Your Social Security number, if available
- A general list of damage and losses
- If insured, the insurance policy number, or the agent and company name

If it is safe to do so, start cleaning up now. Take photos to document damage and begin cleanup and repairs to prevent further damage. Remember to keep receipts from all purchases related to the cleanup and repair.

Disaster assistance may include financial assistance for temporary lodging and home repairs, low-interest loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are available to businesses, homeowners and renters. Call the SBA at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 800-877-8339) or visit www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

Once you set up your account, you can apply on-line. This will make it where you can upload your own documents that will be required proof of occupancy, insurance letters of awards or denials, and any other documents you will need to submit. You can also check your account to see where you are at in the application process. The resident can also call 1-800-361-3362 and apply over the phone. Once you apply over the phone then the resident will have to fax or send in your documents.

FEMA may be able to assist homeowner and Renters who has insurance. We cannot duplicate services so your will need to send in the documents stating what your insurance covered and what your insurance did not. There may be possible assistance for things that insurance does not cover.