



DISASTER NEWS



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY--FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEMA-DR-1360-MS-69

April 20, 2001

Contacts: Amy Bissell, MEMA, 601-960-9039
Jim Barrett, FEMA, 662-680-8141

WINDSTORM, TORNADO RELIEF NEARS \$27 MILLION

Tupelo – The total of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and state funds committed for the Mississippi recovery effort for the February and March windstorms and tornadoes this week neared the \$27 million mark.

With the deadline for registering for recovery assistance just around the corner, more than 7,000 Mississippians have signed up for recovery aid. The deadline falls Tuesday, April 24th.

Anyone who suffered real or potential damages or losses in those three storm events are urgently requested to **call the FEMA toll-free registration number at 1-800-462-9029 or 1-800-462-7585 for the speech or hearing impaired. Applications will be accepted until 6 p.m. on April 24th.**

“We don’t want anyone who suffered through these violent storms to be denied the opportunity for assistance to help them along the road to recovery,” said John Hannah, Federal Coordinating Officer for the disaster recovery.

Leon Shaifer, the state of Mississippi official leading the recovery effort, added, “It is critical that people who suffered losses in these windstorms and tornadoes register for assistance today.”

These are the cumulative totals of state and federal assistance approved for Mississippi’s late winter windstorms and tornadoes:

- Disaster housing assistance - \$2,293,358
- Individual and family grants - \$2,300,900
- Public assistance to local governments and eligible private non-profit agencies for infrastructure repair and disaster-related costs - \$9,326,923
- SBA home loans - \$9,445,500
- SBA business loans - \$3,166,600
- Economic injury disaster loans - \$1,078,800
- Crisis counseling - \$102,678

(NOTE: See attached county-by-county figures)

More information is available on FEMA's For the Media site, at www.fema.gov/media, and Fax-on-Demand at **(202) 646-FEMA**. For information on Project Impact: Building Disaster Resistant Communities, go to www.fema.gov/impact. Radio actualities are available from the FEMA Radio Network **(1-800-323-5248)**.