

Draft News Release Signature Approval

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TIPS FOR DISASTER APPLICANTS

TUPELO, MS—State and federal disaster recovery officials issued these recovery assistance tips today for residents of Mississippi who suffered uninsured losses in the severe storms of February 16 and 24.

The essential first step is calling **1-800-462-9029** to register toll-free with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This is the only way to obtain the assistance you are eligible to receive. The number is **1-800-462-7585** for the speech or hearing impaired. Other suggestions for getting help as quickly as possible:

- Be sure FEMA has a telephone number that will reach you and that your street address is prominently displayed. Your damage will be inspected. Arrange to be at home and allow sufficient time for the inspection. Missing the inspection appointment will delay getting help.
- You should register even if you are covered by insurance. This establishes your eligibility for federal assistance in case hidden damage is discovered after you have settled with the insurance company. Damage must be disaster-related.
- You don't have to be a property owner to receive federal assistance. If you rent and lost essential personal property and are not insured for the loss, help in getting a replacement is available.
- Renters forced from their homes by disaster damage may apply for rental assistance to relocate temporarily while repairs are made.
- Photographs and receipts for essential replacement purchases are valuable in documenting your losses.
- If you receive an SBA loan packet you must complete and return it even if you don't want a loan in order to have your eligibility for individual and family grants determined.
- To check the status of your application or if you need to amend your application, to report newly discovered damage for example, contact FEMA's information hotline using the toll-free number, **1-800-525-0321** (**1-800-462-7585** for the speech or hearing impaired).

