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FIRST CHECKS ARE IN THE MAIL TO DISASTER VICTIMS; CALL TOLL-FREE NUMBER FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE

JACKSON, MS – With 35 Mississippi counties now eligible for federal disaster assistance as a result of the February 16 and 24 tornadoes and severe weather, storm victims are urged to call the Federal Emergency Management Administration’s (FEMA) toll-free registration number, 1-800-462-9029. The number for the speech or hearing impaired is 1-800-462-7585.

“The first step toward getting federal disaster assistance is to call FEMA’s toll-free telephone registration number,” said John D. Hannah, the official in charge of federal recovery operations. “Although we have community relations teams out in the field providing, face-to-face, information on the available assistance programs, the toll-free registration number must be called first,” he added.

The toll-free registration service is available from 8 a.m. to 6. p.m., seven days a week until further notice

“With state and federal assistance already rolling in to help those who were hit on the 16th, we hope to be able to respond as quickly to provide needed assistance to the **newest** victims of nature’s wrath,” said Leon Shaifer of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. He added, “the most important message for storm victims at this time, however, is in order to get the disaster assistance process started you must register by calling the FEMA toll-free number.”

Federal disaster housing assistance checks are currently on their way to individuals and families who sustained damage to their homes during the February 16 storm.

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