



JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

Disaster News



Mississippi Emergency Management Agency – Federal Emergency Management Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEMA-DR-1443-MS-NR15

Date: November 22, 2002

MEDIA CONTACTS:

MEMA - Amy Carruth

FEMA - Ana Marcelo

601-960-9039 or 601-953-3622

662-244-6069

Disaster Housing Assistance Passes \$1 Million Mark

COLUMBUS, MS — The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved more than \$1 million in individual and housing assistance to Mississippians who were affected by the November 10 and 11 tornadoes and storms.

“This assistance is an important step in the recovery process, and reflects our commitment to providing disaster aid as quickly as possible,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Michael Bolch. “In the weeks ahead, we will continue to work with our state, local and volunteer partners to help address the needs of those Mississippians affected by the disaster.”

The disaster housing program provides grants to homeowners to make minor but necessary repairs for disaster related damages. Grants for temporary rental assistance also are available for both homeowners and renters. Government disaster assistance covers basic needs only and will not normally compensate individuals for their entire loss. If an individual has insurance, the government may help pay for basic needs not covered under their insurance policy. Some disaster aid does not have to be paid back, while other help may come in the form of loans.

“Meeting housing needs is one of our top priorities,” said State Coordinating Officer Leon Shaifer. “Getting people into safe, sanitary and functional quarters is important so that they can focus on repairing and rebuilding their homes.”

To date, 828 residents and business owners have registered for disaster assistance in the six declared Mississippi counties. Those who have suffered losses and have not yet applied for disaster assistance are urged to call FEMA’s toll-free number at **800-621-FEMA (3362)** to register. Hearing or speech impaired individuals may call **TTY at 800-462-7585**.