



Disaster News Release

**Federal Disaster Loans for
Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all sizes**

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SBA REMINDS OF JANUARY 3, 2003 DISASTER LOAN APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER 29TH SEVERE STORMS IN PEARL RIVER COUNTY

JACKSON, MS – Pearl River County homeowners, renters, landlords, and business owners affected by the October 29, 2002 severe storms and straight line winds have just two weeks left to turn-in their SBA disaster loan applications. Assistance is also available to those in the contiguous Counties of Forrest, Hancock, Harrison, Lamar, Marion, and Stone. The deadline for applications is January 3, 2003, according to SBA Disaster Area Director Michael C. Allen.

Allen said, “If you think you’re going to get everything you need from your insurance settlement to repair your damaged home or business, you may be in for a surprise. Insurance seldom covers all the costs associated with repairing damages caused by a disaster. I don’t want anyone to miss out on the additional help SBA can provide through our low-interest disaster loan program.”

“Take out a little extra insurance by turning in your completed SBA disaster loan application. That way you’re covered when your insurance settlement is not enough to meet your disaster-related needs. If it turns out you don’t need the loan, then you can cancel it. The only cost to you is the time it took to complete your application,” Allen added.

To date, SBA has approved \$175,400 in low-interest disaster loans to Pearl River County homeowners, renters, landlords, and business owners. All but \$10,000 has gone to homeowners and renters.

Applications and program information remain available by calling the SBA toll-free at 1-800-359-2227. These telephones are answered Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Central Time.

Applications will not be accepted after the January 3, 2003 deadline.

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Information about the disaster program is available on SBA’s homepage at www.sba.gov