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Disaster News



FEMA-DR-(XXXX)-NR#1

Sept. 30, 2002

MEDIA CONTACT:

(DATE)

Marvin Davis
Amy Carruth

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency

601-352-9100

D R A F T

DISASTER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO MISSISSIPPI RESIDENTS

Gulfport, MS – Homeowners, renters, and business owners who sustained losses as a result of Hurricane Isidore may find assistance from a wide range of state and federal programs, according to state and federal disaster officials. Residents may apply for assistance by calling the Federal Emergency Management Agency's toll-free registration number at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Hearing and speech impaired individuals may call TTY at 1-800-462-7585.

"We want to assure people that we are working to make sure services are provided to those who need them," said Mike Bolch, federal coordinating officer for the recovery effort. "A number of disaster assistance programs are in place to help the people affected by Hurricane Isidore."

The primary aid programs include temporary disaster housing assistance, low-interest loans for repair and replacement of real or personal property and grants to help meet serious disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs. 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.

The Presidential disaster declaration also provides federal funding for the removal of debris causing health and safety concerns, and the repair and replacement of damaged public facilities, such as roads or bridges.

On October 1, counties in Mississippi were declared a major disaster area by President Bush.. The designated counties are (LIST).

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More information is available on FEMA's For the Media site, at www.fema.gov/media, and radio actualities are available from the FEMA Radio Network (1-800-323-5248).