

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY



NEWS

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Preliminary Damage Assessment Results for Lee County

(Jackson) - As a result of today's FEMA Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments in Lee County, MEMA is proceeding with Governor Ronnie Musgrove's request to the Small Business Administration for disaster assistance. The results of the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) for Lee County are as follows: 0 - Destroyed, 3 - Major Damage, 217 - Minor, 62 - affected.

"Based on the assessments, the best course of action is to proceed with our original request to the SBA," said Musgrove. "Our focus is on getting disaster assistance for those affected by the storms as quickly as possible, so they can begin the rebuilding process."

To qualify for a request for FEMA Federal Disaster Assistance, the assessment would have had to demonstrate that approximately 100 uninsured homes were destroyed or received major damage.

"The criteria for an SBA declaration is at least 25 homes and/or businesses in a county having uninsured losses of 40% or more of their estimated fair replacement value," said MEMA Director Robert Latham. "This is the best choice for the citizens of Lee County based on the available options to the State and the results of the Joint PDA."

Along with the SBA assistance, MEMA is making available the State Disaster Housing program to the citizens of Lee County that were displaced from their homes. **If the primary residence was rendered unlivable and you were displaced as result of the flooding on August 6, 2003, call (1-800-434-4243) and apply for the State Disaster Housing Program before September 5, 2003.** Once you call and complete an application over the phone, a site inspection/survey of the damaged home will be scheduled and conducted by a MEMA representative. The representative will need proof of ownership and/or occupancy at the time of incident and will provide the necessary information to determine **the amount of assistance you may be eligible for.**

Homeowners may qualify for up to three (3) months rental assistance and renters may qualify for up to (1) month rental assistance for temporary housing. Items that are not covered by the DHP are personal property such as carpet, any flooring, clothing, appliances, food and vehicles.

"The greatest financial protection from flood damage is a flood insurance policy," said Latham. "Unfortunately many homeowners and renters discovered the hard way that homeowner policies do not cover damages as a result of flooding. All citizens who live in low-lying areas are encouraged to purchase flood insurance to protect them against future disaster caused by flash flooding."

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