



FEMA

E-News Update

This E-News update includes information on federal and state resources available to help Texas businesses and employees recover from Hurricane Ike. We welcome your comments, questions, good stories and suggested topics. See below for details.

FEDERAL SPENDING BENEFITS LOCAL BUSINESSES, EMPLOYEES

With federal assistance approaching the \$1.5 billion mark, a lot of these funds being spent by recipients is helping the bottom line of Texas businesses. Some of the significant spending is listed below.

Home Repair: More than 82,600 homeowners are receiving more than \$360 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to fix their homes. In addition, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has given out more than \$400 million in low interest loans to about 8,000 households to make repairs and to replace property. In addition, the State of Texas administers and partially funds the Other Needs Assistance program that helps replace private property items. More than 56,000 residents have received more than \$102 million to cover lost automobiles, clothes, etc.

Much of the early spending by homeowners and businesses went to roof repair businesses. From building supplies to construction trades, residents are currently spending federal money to replace drywall, flooring, windows and doors, plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling units. Furniture is being replaced by the truckload as well as kitchen and laundry appliances.

Temporary Housing: While these repairs are underway, more than 4,000 Texans are living in hotels and motels across the state. In addition to offering shelter for people whose homes have been damaged or destroyed, the temporary housing program has a substantial economic impact on the community by providing revenue to hotels and motels and local businesses as well as employment for people in the community.

Business Continuity: More than 1,000 Texas businesses are replacing property and equipment and have working capital to keep payrolls rolling using more than \$135 million in low interest loans from the SBA.

Public Facilities: Debris removal businesses are working hard on one of the biggest items funded by FEMA Public Assistance (PA) grants both on land and in water. Local jurisdictions decide how to get the job done and then turn to FEMA for funding.

In addition to debris removal projects, FEMA has [obligated \\$73 million in PA funds](#) to help rebuild University of Texas Medical Branch on Galveston Island. So far, FEMA has obligated to the state more than \$380 million for PA projects identified by local jurisdictions.

For more information about contracts for disaster recovery work funded by FEMA, Texas businesses are encouraged to contact the jurisdiction needing the work. For federal contracts, businesses can go to www.fbo.gov – Federal Business Opportunities and search on “Texas.”

GALVESTON RECOVERY COMMITTEE PLANS OPEN HOUSE

Ten days of Galveston neighborhood open house meetings will culminate in a Community Open House on **Saturday, Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.** at Ball High School, 4115 Avenue O.

The neighborhood meetings to identify disaster issues and recovery projects have been going on nightly since Jan. 21. The final neighborhood meeting is set for League City on Thursday, Jan. 29 from 6-8 p.m. at the League City Community Center, 400 West Walker.

For more information, contact the Galveston Community Recovery Committee at recoverygalveston.org or the Galveston City Planning Department, recovery@cityofgalveston.org, 409-797-3660.

SEA GRANT TEXAS CONTINUES FISHERIES RECOVERY EFFORT

This Thursday, [Texas Sea Grant Extension](#) concludes its series of public meetings with commercial fishermen affected by Hurricane Ike in the Galveston Bay complex and the Sabine Lake area.

At the meeting, Sea Grant staff will answer questions about the economic loss assessment surveys that have been mailed and explain the importance of obtaining industrywide damage information for the long-term recovery process. They will be seeking input regarding strategies for forming a fishing community coalition to help unite the efforts needed to obtain appropriate resources.

Anyone interested in the fisheries is invited to attend the meeting which begins at **6 p.m.**:
Anahuac, TX - **Thursday, Jan. 29 – White Memorial Park**, 295 White Memorial Park Drive.

Texas Sea Grant Extension is a cooperative effort of the Texas Sea Grant College Program at Texas A&M University, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and commissioners' courts. (<http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu/>)

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SITUATION UPDATE:

CLOSE OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28, 2009

- Housing and Other Needs Assistance disbursed grants: **\$469,861,712**
- Small Business Administration approved loan amounts: **\$537,604,000**
 - Including **1,234** low-interest business loans: **\$135,100,500**
- Current Deadlines:
 - FEMA registration and SBA loan application: **Friday, Feb. 6, 2009**
 - Transitional Sheltering Assistance in Hotels & Motels (TSA): **March 13, 2009**
 - SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan: **June 15, 2009**

CONTRACTING WORKSHOPS SET FOR GALVESTON NEXT WEEK

In an effort to involve more local small businesses in bidding on government contracts, two workshops will be presented next week at the **Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church**, 2920 Ave. M1/2, Galveston, TX 77550 from **6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

Both workshops are sponsored by City of Galveston Council members Dr. Linda Colbert and Tarris Woods, FEMA, SBA and the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. The workshops are FREE and open to the public, but participants are asked to register by calling **409-771-5258**.

Galveston – Feb. 4 - Disaster Contracting with Local Vendors

This presentation will include information on how to:

- Register with Dun & Bradstreet for a contractor DUNS number.
- Register with Central Contractor Registration (CCR).
- Get on the General Services Administration (GSA) schedule.
- Interface with the SBA to obtain small business certifications.
- Successfully navigate Web sites that contain contracting opportunities for recovery efforts for Hurricane Ike.

Galveston – Feb. 5 - Bids and Proposals Preparation

Participants will learn how to:

- Effectively respond to Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and Requests for Quotations (RFQs).
- Develop a strong proposal.
- Utilize available local resources.

Attendance at either workshop does not guarantee a contract award.

TEXANS ASSIGNED MANUFACTURED HOUSING NEED TO CHOOSE POWER COMPANY AND SET UP NEW ACCOUNT

Texans receiving temporary manufactured housing due to the disaster are encouraged to set up their electric service accounts quickly in order to avoid delays in occupying their units.

In the Galveston and Houston areas especially, many temporary units installed on private property cannot be turned over to applicants because the units lack power. Applicants need to select their power provider and establish an account to avoid delays in moving in. These areas are part of the Texas Electric Choice program, which gives consumers a choice in selecting their electric provider.

Once approved for manufactured housing on private property, applicants are provided an I.D. number together with information on how to establish an account. To get started, they should call the Texas Electric Choice Hotline at 1-866-797-4839 or use the www.powertochoose.org Web site and have their I.D. number handy.

Those approved for a temporary housing unit on private property must set up a new account even if they have an existing account for their damaged home. This is because these temporary units have their own power poles and thus require a separate account.

FEMA ADVISORS AT TEXAS HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTERS

Teams of FEMA hazard mitigation specialists are at Texas stores, answering questions about protecting homes and businesses from future disaster damage as well as other storm-damage questions.

The FEMA representatives explain flood- and wind-resistant building techniques and offer advice on topics such as building elevation, safe rooms, wind straps, flood insurance and other measures to make buildings stronger and safer. They also offer publications on similar topics.

Brazoria Co	The Home Depot	100 Amber Jackson	Lake Jackson, TX	Jan. 12-Feb. 12
		Thurs-Tues (No Wednesdays) 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Sun - 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	
Chambers Co	Bradley Feed & Supply	518 Miller St.	Anahuac, TX	Jan. 12-Feb. 12
		Mon-Sat - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.		
Galveston Co	The Home Depot	702 65th St.	Galveston, TX	Jan. 12-Feb. 12
		Thurs-Tues (No Wednesdays) 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Sun - 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	
Harris County	The Home Depot	4915 Garth Road	Baytown, TX	Jan. 12-Feb. 12
		Thurs-Tues (No Wednesdays) 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Sun - 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	
Jefferson Co	The Home Depot	3910 Easter Freeway	Beaumont, TX	Jan. 12-Feb. 12
		Thurs-Tues (No Wednesdays) 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Sun - 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	
Liberty Co	McCoy's Building Supply	1000 Highway 59 S	Cleveland, TX	Jan. 17-Feb. 6
		Mon-Sat - 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.		
Montgomery Co	The Home Depot	1341 W. Davis	Conroe, TX	Jan. 24-Feb. 6
		Thurs-Tues (No Wednesdays) 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Sun - 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	
Orange County	Orange Co Building Materials	365 Old Highway 90 W.	Vidor, TX	Jan. 12-Feb. 12
		Thurs-Tues (No Wednesdays) 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Sun - 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	
Tyler County	McCoy's Building Supply	1000 Southwest Loop 323	Tyler, TX	Jan. 24-Feb. 6
		Mon-Sat - 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.		

FEMA PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICE

This **E-News Update** is provided by FEMA Private Sector Liaison, which is part of the federal response to Hurricane Ike. If you no longer wish to receive these Private Sector **E-News Updates**, reply with your contact information and the word "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. If someone forwarded you this e-mail and you would like to be added to the distribution list, send an e-mail with your contact information and the word "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line to FEMA-TX-Private-Sector@fema.gov.

CONTACT PHONE: 512-465-5858, FAX: 512-465-5867, E-MAIL: FEMA-TX-PRIVATE-SECTOR@FEMA.GOV

DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, SEX, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, DISABILITY, ECONOMIC STATUS OR RETALIATION. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, YOU SHOULD CALL FEMA TOLL-FREE AT 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). IF SUSPICIOUS OF ANY ABUSE OF FEMA PROGRAMS, PLEASE CONTACT THE FRAUD HOTLINE AT 1-800-323-8603.