

**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.

ANNUAL GALVESTON JOB FAIR EXPECTING RECORD TURNOUT

Given the double impact of Hurricane Ike and the current economy, organizers of the Fourth Annual **Oceans of Opportunity Job Fair** are expecting a record turnout of both employers and job applicants.

The event is scheduled for **Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the **Galveston Island Convention Center**, 5600 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77551.

Last year about 2,000 people showed up to meet with 140 employers. This year, 200 employers are expected to be on hand with room for more. The event is free for job seekers who are advised to come dressed for interviews and to bring multiple copies of their resume.

To expedite the process of connecting the right people to employers looking for specific skills, when registering, job seekers will be given a list of employers attending the event and the jobs they want to fill. Employer representatives will be accepting resumes and will have access to private interview space if they need it.

The event is being sponsored by Rep. Ron Paul (R-14th District), the City of Galveston, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce, the Galveston Economic Development Partnership, the University of Texas Medical Branch and Workforce Solutions.

If job seekers need more information they can call or visit any Workforce Solutions Career Office in their community, call 888-469-JOBS (5627) or visit www.wrksolutions.com.

Employers who would like to participate can register at www.wrksolutions.com/exhibitor.html. For more information they can contact Laura Baumgartner at Laura.Baumgartner@wrksolutions.com or call (409) 949-9055 ext. 2338. Note this extension is different from what was on flyers distributed earlier.

JEFFERSON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORP. GETS RENEWED LIFE

More than 100 new jobs are in the sights of the long-inactive Jefferson County Industrial Development Corporation thanks to recent congressional legislation extending the benefits of a Katrina-related tax law to areas devastated by Hurricane Ike. Five Texas counties have now been authorized to issue tax-free bonds until Jan. 1, 2013 in amounts much larger than originally prescribed.

Prior to this fall's amendment, the act written in 2005 would only allow counties impacted by Hurricane Katrina to issue bonds up to \$10 million, an amount that economic development officials felt was too low. Due to limited capital, the Jefferson County Industrial Corporation had not convened since the mid-1990s. The new amendment adds five counties impacted by Hurricane Ike and raises the amount available.

The Jefferson County group is now looking at a \$330 million project to renovate a dormant refinery that would create 100-150 jobs in the mostly rural county. The two to three year renovation would employ about 300 construction workers.

The other four counties eligible to issue these higher limit tax-free bonds are Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston and Orange. For more information, go to <http://www.irs.gov/taxexemptbond/index.html>.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SITUATION UPDATE:

CLOSE OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 2009

- Housing and Other Needs Assistance disbursed grants: **\$480,645,071**
- Small Business Administration approved loan amounts: **\$551,353,100**
 - Including **1,283** low-interest business loans: **\$146,520,800**
- Current Deadlines:
 - FEMA registration and SBA loan application: **Friday, Feb. 20, 2009**
 - Transitional Sheltering Assistance in Hotels & Motels (TSA): March 13, 2009
 - SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan: June 15, 2009

DEADLINE EXTENDED AGAIN TO ACCOMMODATE TEXANS

Four months and 23 days after Hurricane Ike made landfall, Texans are still registering with FEMA for assistance. In response to requests by the State of Texas, FEMA has extended the registration deadline.

The **current deadline is Feb. 20, 2009** for both FEMA applications for assistance and SBA loan applications. Simply filling out and submitting the SBA loan application may open the door for additional state and FEMA benefits to eligible individuals. Since the previous Jan. 12 deadline, more than 1,200 Texans have registered, about half from Harris County.

CHAMBERS, GALVESTON HOSTING RECOVER/REBUILD EVENTS

In these county meetings, citizens are being asked to bring their ideas, dreams and neighbors to assist in planning their community long-term recovery. The meetings are organized by local, state and federal partners.

Chambers meetings that remain include:

Oak Island	Fri - Feb. 6	4-8 p.m.	Oak Island Baptist Church	707 W. Bayshore Road
Winnie	Sat - Feb. 7	2-6 p.m.	St. Louis Catholic Church	315 Buccaneer Road

Galveston meetings are every Monday in February, 6-9 p.m. at the Galveston Island Convention Center San Luis Resort.

SEA GRANT TEXAS FISHERIES DAMAGE SURVEYS DUE FEB. 20

Friday, Feb. 20 is the deadline for those in the Texas seafood industry to comment through the [Texas Sea Grant Extension](#) impact survey for the Galveston Bay complex and the Sabine Lake area.

Sea Grant has been conducting public meetings to gather information and pass out the surveys. Anyone who would like more information should contact Rhonda Cummins at (361) 552-9747.

FIVE SBA DISASTER LOAN CENTERS READY TO HELP

Not just businesses, but homeowners, renters and private nonprofit organizations are welcome at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) five Disaster Loan Outreach Centers now open to help Texans.

The latest to open, located at **The McNair Center**, 3411 E. Freeway in **Baytown**, began serving Texans on Jan. 27. Its hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., until further notice.

Other centers, along with their hours and addresses, are:

Houston Third Ward Multi-Service Center

3611 Ennis St.
Houston, TX 77004
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Economic Alliance, Houston Port Region

908 W. Main St.
La Porte, TX 77571
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Port Arthur Civic Center

3401 Cultural Center Dr.
Port Arthur, TX 77642
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Missouri City Wells Fargo Building

2440 Texas Parkway, Suite 220
Missouri City, TX 77489
Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SBA customer service representatives are available at all centers and the remaining Disaster Recovery Centers to help people with their loan applications, explain the application process, close approved disaster loans, and answer questions about SBA's disaster loan programs. **The deadline to apply for an SBA loan is Feb. 20. The deadline to apply for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans is June 15.**

For information about SBA programs, call **800-659-2955 (TTY 800-877-8339)**, or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Individuals may also contact SBA by email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

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 Through 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. Mon-Sat - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Anahuac, TX	Through Feb. 12
Galveston Co	The Home Depot	702 65th St. Thurs-Tues (No Wednesdays) 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Galveston, TX	Through Feb. 12
Harris County	The Home Depot	4915 Garth Road Thurs-Tues (No Wednesdays) 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Baytown, TX	Through Feb. 12
Jefferson Co	The Home Depot	3910 Easter Freeway Thurs-Tues (No Wednesdays) 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Beaumont, TX	Through Feb. 12
Liberty Co	McCoy's Building Supply	1000 Highway 59 S Daily - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Cleveland, TX	Through Feb. 6
Montgomery Co	The Home Depot	1341 W. Davis Daily - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Conroe, TX	Through Feb. 6
Orange County	Orange Co Building Materials	365 Old Highway 90 W. Thurs-Tues (No Wednesdays) 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Vidor, TX	Through Feb. 12
Tyler County	McCoy's Building Supply	1000 Southwest Loop 323 Daily - 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Tyler, TX	Through Feb. 6

FEEDBACK AND CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS SOUGHT

This publication welcomes any input from our private sector readers about things that went well and things that should be fixed for next time. These can be comments and stories from your own organization or about your experiences with federal and state programs. We will report back on comments we receive during February and use this in planning the work of FEMA Private Sector Offices in the future.

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.