



FEMA

E-News Update

QUICK FACTS

Currently **468,366** people have registered with FEMA as of COB 9/19/08. Of that number, **43,015** applications were received from business owners reporting damage to their business.

REGISTER WITH FEMA

If you've been affected by Hurricane Ike, FEMA urges you to apply for assistance online at www.FEMA.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362 TTY 1-800-462-7585.

If you choose to apply by phone, you should know that FEMA is experiencing extremely high call volume and extended wait times. All calls are important to us and we appreciate your patience and understanding while we are assisting those in need. Each call is individually addressed and reviewed, and that is a time-intensive process.

APPLY FOR BUSINESS RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

Whether you rent or own your own home, own your own business, or own a small agricultural cooperative located in a declared disaster area, and are the victim of a disaster, you may be eligible for financial assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

What Types of Disaster Loans are Available?

- **Home Disaster Loans** – Loans to homeowners or renters to repair or replace disaster damaged real estate or personal property owned by the victim. Renters are eligible for their personal property losses, including automobiles.
- **Business Physical Disaster Loans** – Loans to businesses to repair or replace disaster-damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, non-profit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities, etc., are also eligible.
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs)** – Working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period. EIDL assistance is available only to entities and their owners who cannot provide for their own recovery from non-government sources, as determined by the SBA.

For more information, click [here](#).

HOW TO CONTRACT YOUR SERVICES

Wondering how to get government contract work to support Ike recovery and ongoing activities?

For a complete list of resources on how to do business with FEMA, visit

<http://www.fema.gov/business/contractor.shtm>

PODS FADING

In response to Hurricane Ike, several Points of Distribution (POD) were set up in hard-hit areas to provide people with short-term, emergency needs for food, water and ice. When power is restored, the water is safe to drink and the stores begin to reopen - PODs are no longer needed. This reduction in the number of PODs is a positive sign in the community's recovery process and it also supports local businesses. Supplies will continue to be transported to local PODs as long as the local authorities feel they are needed.

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) are now open in Harris, Orange, Hardin, Tyler, Bexar, and Houston counties to provide face-to-face assistance to those who suffered damages and losses from Hurricane Ike. Times and locations vary. Stay tuned to local media reports for the nearest one in your area.

Residents are encouraged to register with FEMA before visiting a DRC. The center provides a single location where people are able to talk face-to-face with disaster recovery specialists.

HURRICANE IKE VICTIMS QUALIFY FOR IRS DISASTER RELIEF

Texas taxpayers who were adversely affected by Hurricane Ike qualify for tax relief from the Internal Revenue Service, including the postponement of tax filing and payment deadlines until Jan. 5, 2009. To find out more, view the IRS news release by clicking here:

<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=186874,00.html>.

HOTEL LODGING AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE IKE EVACUEES

FEMA and the State of Texas are working together to be sure that all eligible disaster-affected individuals and families have a safe, secure and sanitary place to live until it is safe for them to go home. Persons needing transitional housing should register with FEMA by going online or calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).

FEMA's transitional sheltering initiative allows eligible Ike evacuees from Texas, who cannot return to their homes, to stay in hotels or motels until it is safe for them go home. FEMA will pay for the lodging directly to hotels and motels. A listing of participating hotels is available online at <http://www.FEMAEvacHotels.com>.

Hotel operators with questions regarding enrollment in the program or the process for reimbursement can contact Corporate Lodging Consultants (CLC) at (866) 545-9865, or online at www.corplodging.com/ela.

OTHER TYPES OF AVAILABLE DISASTER ASSISTANCE

What is Covered under FEMA's Individuals and Households Program

- Housing Assistance includes:
 - Temporary Housing – Financial assistance to rent a different place to live or a temporary housing unit when other housing resources are not available.
 - Repair – Financial assistance for homeowners with uninsured or underinsured disaster-related damage to their primary residences.

- Other Needs Assistance includes:
 - Medical, dental and funeral expenses;
 - Furniture, clothing and some appliances;
 - Vehicle costs (up to state limits) and public transportation expenses;
 - Other eligible expenses.

To register for Individual Assistance, apply by phone by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Call TTY 1-800-462-7585 for people with speech or hearing disabilities. You can also register online by visiting www.fema.gov.

BLUE ROOF PROGRAM

Hurricane Ike has left many Texas homeowners with damaged roofs. Repairs to these roofs can take time. In order to mitigate additional damage that could result from rain, homeowners can have plastic sheeting installed over the damaged area by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contractors, in a program provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The toll-free BLUE ROOF hotline number is 1-888-ROOF-BLU or 1-888-766-3258.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed, but they can be hazardous. The primary hazards to avoid when using them are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock or electrocution, and fire. The U. S. Fire Administration (USFA) would like you to know that there are simple steps you can take to prevent the loss of life and property resulting from improper use of portable generator. For more information on how to use generators safely please visit: http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/co/generator.shtm. For a PDF Fact Sheet on Generator Safety: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/fswy24.pdf>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality have information on their Web site concerning safety tips you should take when returning home including brochures on [preparing safe drinking water](#). Visit www.epa.gov/hurricane/ for more details.

BEWARE OF CARBON MONOXIDE

Due to power outages many people are using portable generators, grills and camp stoves. These fuel-burning devices produce deadly carbon monoxide gases. Used incorrectly, they can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning and deaths.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, and poisonous gas. Do not use a generator, pressure washer, grill, camp stove, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning device inside your home, in a garage, or near a window, door, or vent.

Click [here](#) for a direct link of educational resources for evacuees or for more information go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/Partners>

RED CROSS OFFERS A HELPING HAND TO THOUSANDS

The American Red Cross continues to be on the scene in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike to provide shelter, meals, and emotional support to families forced from their homes.

Last night, almost 9,200 people stayed overnight in 78 Red Cross shelters, and Red Cross has provided a safe place to sleep for almost 130,000 overnight stays since Hurricane Ike began to ravage Texas.

In partnership with other nonprofit partners and FEMA, the Red Cross has provided over 1.27 million meals and snacks to individuals and families impacted by the disaster.

Thousands of Red Cross volunteers are working in Texas communities each day, driving a fleet of over 150 emergency response vehicles to deliver needed goods and mobile feeding, giving out almost 25,000 comfort kits; and providing emotional support and information to Texans impacted by the storm.

Over 6,000 mental health contacts have been made during this distressing time, and almost 5,000 people have registered on the Red Cross Safe & Well website.

Please visit www.redcross.org for more information.

FEMA PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICE

This e-news update is provided by FEMA Private Sector Office in Austin, 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 the word "REMOVE" in the subject line. If someone forwarded you this email and you would like to be added to the distribution list, send an email with the word "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line to dianna.gee@dhs.gov.
