



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.

CDBG PROGRAM OFFERS ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMMUNITIES

The State of Texas has received a \$1.3 billion Supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation for natural disasters in 2008 from the U S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These funds will be awarded within those communities that received disaster declarations under FEMA-1780-DR (Hurricane Dolly) and FEMA-1791-DR (Hurricane Ike) for disaster relief, long term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure, housing and economic revitalization.

Funding has been allocated to the Council of Government (COG) level for prioritization at the local level. Each impacted COG is being asked to allocate the supplemental funding between housing and non-housing activities based on the needs of their region. Once allocated the housing funds will be administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) and the non-housing funds will be administered by the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA). Applications for award will be taken in the coming months. A copy of the Proposed Action Plan governing this funding and additional information can be obtained on the ORCA website at www.orca.state.tx.us.

For more information, contact Heather Lagrone at 512 936 6727 or hlagrone@orca.state.tx.us for non-housing activities and Kelly Crawford at 512 475 3262 or Kelly.crawford@tdhca.state.tx.us for housing activities.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE REGISTRATIONS REMAIN BRISK

After nearly 730,000 registrations and two deadline extensions, FEMA and the SBA continue to process over 100 Hurricane Ike disaster registrations every day, four months after the storm struck Texas.

For **FEMA registration**, go to www.fema.gov or call **1-800-621-FEMA** (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585. The FEMA Registration/Hotline operates 6 a.m. until midnight, seven days a week until further notice.

FEMA registrants are encouraged to file the **SBA disaster loan application** they receive after registering, even if they do not want a loan. Submitting the application may make them eligible for additional state and federal assistance. Applicants can use the application they received after registering or access an Electronic Loan Application from SBA's secure Web site - <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. For information about SBA programs visit the SBA website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance or call **1-800-659-2955** (TTY 1-800-877-8339). Individuals may also email questions to the SBA at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SITUATION UPDATE:

CLOSE OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY, JAN. 07, 2009

- Housing and Other Needs Assistance disbursed grants: **\$444,244,366**
- Small Business Administration approved loan amounts: **\$483,517,000**
 - Including **1,032** low-interest business loans - **\$100,257,700**
- Current Deadlines:
 - FEMA registration and SBA loan application: Monday, Jan. 12, 2009
 - Transitional Sheltering Assistance in Hotels & Motels (TSA): Mar. 13, 2009
 - SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan: June 15, 2009

LOCAL HIRES AND CONTRACTORS PROVIDE ECONOMIC BOOST

FEMA is employing more than 100 locally hired workers in a variety of positions and more than 350 regional firms have been contracted to provide a variety of services to the agency.

These local hires range from office assistants to planning coordinators, couriers to writing specialists, and data processors to computer technicians. All positions are posted and applications are received through the **Texas Workforce Commission** website, www.workintexas.com. Successful applicants receive introductory disaster response training and become an integral part of the recovery effort.

Local independent contractors provide a variety of services to FEMA. These firms include heavy equipment operators who are creating community sites and pads for mobile homes; carpenters, electricians and plumbers who are providing the electrical, sewer and water hookups; and numerous others who offer their special skills to aid the recovery. For more information about contracting opportunities, vendors can contact the **FEMA Industry Liaison Helpdesk** at **202-646-1895** or email FEMA-Industry@dhs.gov.

FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY HOLDERS MAY GET MORE BENEFITS

Flood insurance policyholders whose structures were substantially damaged (more than 50 percent of pre-disaster value) by flooding from Hurricane Ike may be eligible for up to \$30,000 in coverage in addition to their claims for damages. The extra money can be used by property owners to aid in making their homes or businesses safe from future floods.

The benefit is called **Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC)**, because it helps pay for the increased cost of complying with building codes. It is a part of most National Flood Insurance Program policies. A policyholder seeking ICC funding needs to file a claim that is separate from the basic claim for flood damages. Both are filed with the insured's flood insurance agent.

The money can be used to elevate, demolish or relocate the damaged structure. For nonresidential structures, the funds can also be used for flood-proofing. The total insurance payout, including ICC coverage, cannot exceed \$250,000 for a residence or \$500,000 for business structures or apartment buildings with five or more units.

Additional information is available from local floodplain administrators, the **National Flood Insurance Program (800-427-4661)**, and insurance companies and agents. Information is also available at www.fema.gov and www.floodsmart.gov.

SPECIAL TAX OPTIONS MAY BENEFIT THOSE IN DISASTER AREA

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) wants to provide resources and assistance when major disasters and emergencies affect your area. The **IRS Disaster Assistance Hotline** is open 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. local time Monday through Friday at **866-562-5227**.

If you prefer to search online, visit the **Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance** page at www.irs.gov and Search: "Disaster." This Web site is a resource center for businesses and individuals to assist with preparation, assistance and tax relief in a presidentially-declared disaster area. Helpful links include FAQ for disaster victims, IRS contact information, publications and forms.

FEMA REPAIRS APARTMENTS TO INCREASE HOUSING OPTIONS

Galveston residents will soon move into newly repaired apartments under the **Rental Repair Pilot Program (RRPP)**, an initiative that FEMA is testing as part of the Hurricane Ike recovery effort.

Authorized under the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, the FEMA-funded program is designed to be a cost-effective and timely method of getting displaced residents into temporary housing. More importantly, it aims to make use of existing rental housing in areas covered by a major disaster declaration.

This program, a cooperative effort with the State of Texas-led housing task force and the city of Galveston, gave Galveston officials the opportunity to identify apartment complexes for potential participation. FEMA then contacted the owners and found one with 32 units who was eager to become involved.

The criteria for rating a property's eligibility for the program are:

- The owners must have the ability to contract directly with the federal government.
- Properties may, or may not, have been damaged by the disaster.
- Units will be available for FEMA applicants for the duration of the housing need.
- The overall project must be cost-effective to the government.
- Units must be able to be repaired in a timely manner.
- State and local government officials prioritize which apartment complexes will be selected for the program.

QUICK REFERENCE

FEMA Registration and Helpline	800-621-3362	www.fema.gov
FEMA Disaster Recovery Center Locations		http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/dr1791_drc_list.htm
TX Hurricane Ike web page		http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=10570
SBA Disaster Information Helpline	800-659-2955	www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance
IRS Disaster Assistance Hotline	866-562-5227	www.irs.gov
FEMA Landlord Registry – to list rentals	866-766-6086	
FEMA Housing Portal – to find rentals		https://asd.fema.gov/inter/hportal/home.htm
TX Disaster Legal Services Hotline	800-504-7030	
EPA Orphan Container Hotline	800-671-6022	
FEMA for Kids		http://www.fema.gov/kids

FEMA PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICE

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

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