

**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.**

### **EXPERIENCE CITES PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERSHIP IN RECOVERY**

When officials from four states were asked to share disaster recovery experiences with Texas officials coping with Hurricane Ike, they pointed to private sector efforts as a key to their recovery.

Their comments were shared at a video teleconference on Jan. 14 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Community Recovery section. The **Recovery Mentor Meeting** featured disaster recovery representatives from Pascagoula, MS; Punta Gorda, FL; Des Moines, IA and Windsor, CO.

The overall message was clear: Get government, the private sector, community organizations and citizens together and use the disaster as a chance to make the community better. Texas communities participating in the call included representatives from Chambers County and the cities of Anahuac and Port Arthur.

**Charlotte County, FL** is still recovering from Hurricane Charley blasting through the county and city of Punta Gorda in 2004 as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds greater than 145 mph and 170 tornadoes. Like other communities, once businesses recovered, they put out the call for community planning.

In some cities, once public participation began, businesses blended into the process. But here businesses took the extra step to form a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization called [TEAM Punta Gorda](http://www.teampuntagorda.org). They held public meetings and developed a Citizen Master Plan 2005 outlining a vision of what the residents wanted the city to become and how to make it happen. ([www.teampuntagorda.org](http://www.teampuntagorda.org))

**The private sector was involved and raised \$250,000 to expedite the process and put the plan on paper.** Over time, Team Punta Gorda has collected donations and funded recovery projects in an agenda that shifted over time from funding planning consultants to supporting individual projects and organizing volunteers.

**"We wanted better than what we had,"** said **Roger Peterson, president of TEAM Punta Gorda**. He added that one of the lessons learned was to "focus on one geography and a couple of key projects in order to show the world that progress is being made and there is light at the end of the tunnel."

Rebuilding better is a theme echoed by **Kelly Arnold, town manager of Windsor, CO**. "This is the opportunity you have to do something special," he said after a May 2008 tornado ripped their community.

Arnold encouraged a regional approach and advised setting aside biases toward any agency or nearby community and to come together regionally to increase influence in obtaining resources for recovery.

**Kay Kell, city manager of Pascagoula, MS**, a city of about 26,000 that suffered from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, said the “**best thing was the partnerships and getting people together.**” Pascagoula didn’t have the money to hire consultants, but Kell discovered many free resources were available from universities, from cities outside the disaster area and from national associations. Like Punta Gorda, they also organized with five other communities in the county. Here, too, businesses formed a 501(c) 3 to buy and sell impacted properties along the coast.

**Susan Dixon, long-term recovery manager for [Rebuild Iowa](#)**, after the floods, tornadoes and severe weather of 2008, said the key to recovery is “**trying to find what is right for that community.**” All participants in the call stressed the importance of broad public participation. Dixon observed it was “very beneficial both to listen to the public and to understand that they needed to be heard.” ([www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov))

“Once businesses get up on line, things happen” was a clear starting point for all the participating communities. Calling for and leading public participation, funding planning efforts or individual recovery projects and being the first to demonstrate that recovery can happen are just some of the roles businesses can play.

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## **NEW PHONE NUMBER ASSIGNED FOR CONTRACTING WORKSHOPS**

A new phone number has been established to handle registrations for the **Feb. 4 and 5** contracting workshops in Galveston. **To register, call 409-771-5258.**

Both workshops will be from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, 2920 Ave. M1/2, Galveston, TX 77550.

### **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.

Both workshops are sponsored by FEMA, City of Galveston Council members Dr. Linda Colbert and Tarris Woods, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

These events are free and open to the public, but registration is required. Attendance at either workshop does not guarantee a contract award.

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## FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SITUATION UPDATE:

CLOSE OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 2009

- Housing and Other Needs Assistance disbursed grants: **\$465,134,588**
- Small Business Administration approved loan amounts: **\$522,929,600**
  - Including **1,184** low-interest business loans: **\$126,042,900**
- 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

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## SEA GRANT TEXAS CONTINUES FISHERIES RECOVERY EFFORT

After a successful Jan. 15 public meeting, [Texas Sea Grant Extension](#) continues its series of public meetings with commercial fishermen affected by Hurricane Ike in the Galveston Bay complex and the Sabine Lake area. Approximately 70 fishermen and processors attended the first meeting that presented relevant recovery information and updates on various fishery-related items.

In the meetings next week, 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. Their staff 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 these meetings which begin at 6 p.m.:  
Port Arthur, TX - Tuesday Jan. 27 – Port Arthur Public Library, 4615 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. @ Highway 73  
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/>)

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## 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.

### Tyler County

Parker Lumber Company  
2000 Magnolia St.  
Woodville, TX  
**Jan. 12-23**  
Mon-Sat  
7 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri  
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat

### 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.

### San Jacinto County

Lakeside Building Supply  
Highway 150 W  
Coldspring, TX  
**Jan. 12-23**  
Mon-Sat  
7 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri  
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat

### **Liberty County**

McCoy's Building Supply  
1000 Highway 59 S  
Cleveland, TX

**Jan. 17-Feb. 6**

Monday - Saturday  
7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

### **Montgomery County**

Home Depot  
1341 W. Davis  
Conroe, TX

**Jan. 24 – Feb. 6**

Thursday through Tuesday  
(No Wednesdays)  
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Sundays - 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

FEMA teams will be at the outlets listed below **Thursday through Tuesday** (No Wednesdays) until **Feb. 12** from **7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**, **Sundays** from **8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

### **Harris County**

The Home Depot  
4915 Garth Road  
Baytown, TX

### **Brazoria County**

The Home Depot  
100 Amber Jackson Parkway  
Lake Jackson, TX

### **Orange County**

Orange Co Building Materials  
365 Old Highway 90 W.  
Vidor, TX

### **Jefferson County**

The Home Depot  
3910 Easter Freeway  
Beaumont, TX

### **Galveston County**

The Home Depot  
702 65th St.  
Galveston, TX

### **Chambers County**

Bradley Feed & Supply  
518 Miller St.  
Anahuac, TX

***This location closed  
Sunday***

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## **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](mailto:FEMA-TX-Private-Sector@fema.gov).

**CONTACT PHONE: 512-465-5858, FAX: 512-465-5867, E-MAIL: [FEMA-TX-PRIVATE-SECTOR@FEMA.GOV](mailto:FEMA-TX-PRIVATE-SECTOR@FEMA.GOV)**

*DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, SEX, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, DISABILITY, OR ECONOMIC STATUS. ANYONE WHO BELIEVES HE OR SHE HAS BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST SHOULD CONTACT THE FEMA HELPLINE AT 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) OR 1-800-462-7585 FOR THE SPEECH- OR HEARING-IMPAIRED.*

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