



E-News Update



MILLIONS IN ASSISTANCE FLOWING TO TEXANS

Two weeks after Hurricane Ike made landfall in Texas, roads are being cleared, businesses are re-opening and people are returning to their homes – all signs the recovery from Hurricane Ike is underway. Here are a few quick facts on recovery efforts underway in Texas as of close of business Sept. 27:

- **\$53,976,055** in Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance paid.
- More than **638,386** registrations for assistance from **29** counties
- **72,380 houses** inspected with **1,424** inspectors in the field.
- **14,684** visits have been made to the 29 open Disaster Recovery Centers.
- More than **70,000** cubic yards of debris removed from public and private property by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), local governments and contractors.
- FEMA assigned the USACE to install **16,683** temporary roofs through Operation Blue Roof; the Corps has installed **711** to date.
- More than 1,800 FEMA staff on the ground to assist Texans in their recovery.

To register for assistance, go online to www.fema.gov or call the toll-free number **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **(TTY) 1-800-462-7585**. The tele-registration number operates seven days a week, 24 hours a day, until further notice. **Applicants should register only once.**

HOUSING INFORMATION

FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Initiative offers eligible Ike evacuees from Texas, who cannot return to their homes, to stay for a limited time in hotels or motels. FEMA will pay for the lodging directly. To qualify, evacuees must first apply for FEMA assistance by registering online at www.fema.gov or calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). A listing of participating hotels is available online at <http://www.FEMAEvacHotels.com>.

While hotel lodging is intended for short-term assistance, FEMA is working with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on a plan to provide eligible Ike evacuees with rental resources for up to 18 months from the date of the disaster declaration. To read more about this plan: <http://www.hud.gov/news/release.cfm?content=pr08-145.cfm>

What about Longer Term Needs?

If you're a homeowner with disaster damage to your primary residence, you may qualify for a FEMA grant and/or an SBA loan to make needed repairs. For more information on Disaster Assistance available for individuals and households visit: http://www.fema.gov/assistance/process/individual_assistance.shtm

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS

Meet a disaster recovery specialist face to face to talk about what assistance might be available to help you and your situation. Dozens of Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) are now open to provide personal assistance to those who suffered damages and losses from Hurricane Ike. More are opening every day. Anyone can visit any DRC for information. If possible, residents are encouraged to register prior to visiting a DRC, but phones and computers are available to register. To locate a DRC nearest you, visit the Governor's Division of Emergency Management web site: http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/dr1791_drc_list.htm

SBA BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTERS FOR IKE VICTIMS

The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has opened five Business Assistance Centers (BACs) to provide a wide range of services to businesses impacted by Hurricane Ike. The centers are open at the following locations on the days and times indicated:

<u>Houston</u> University of Houston SBDC 2302 Fannin, Ste 200 Houston, TX 77002	<u>Houston</u> Houston SCORE Chapter 8701 S. Gessner, 12 th floor Houston, TX 77074	<u>Lufkin</u> Angelina College SBDC 3500 S. First Lufkin, TX 75901
Mondays thru Fridays 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Opens Thursday, September 25 Until further notice	Mondays thru Fridays 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Opens Thursday, September 25 Until further notice	Mondays thru Fridays 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Opens Thursday, September 25 Until further notice
<u>Port Arthur</u> Lamar State College SBDC 1401 Procter Port Arthur, TX 77641		<u>Texas City</u> Galveston County SBDC 8419 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway Texas City, TX 77591
Mondays thru Fridays 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Opens Thursday, September 25 Until further notice		Mondays thru Fridays 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Opens Thursday, September 25 Until further notice

Business owners may also get help from SBA representatives at any Disaster Recovery Center in Texas. They may also contact SBA's Customer Service Center by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955 or by emailing us at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339 or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Additionally, disaster victims may now go online to file an SBA application for disaster loan assistance. The Electronic Loan Application (ELA) is accessible via SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, disaster victims should first register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by calling (800) 621-3362, or visit their web site at www.fema.gov.

FEMA'S LOCAL HIRE PROGRAM

FEMA is pleased to introduce and support FEMA'S Local Hire program in the state of Texas for its citizens affected by Hurricane Ike. The Local Hire Program is designed to provide employees for FEMA offices and operations as well as benefit the citizens in the communities affected by a disaster. By employing local people, FEMA invests in the community's recovery. The process supports the state of Texas by using its Texas Workforce program to collect, screen, and forward resumes that fit job postings.

A LOCAL HIRE:

- MUST live within a 50-mile radius of the job site
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be over the age of 18
- Receive a security clearance

Anyone interested in temporary employment with FEMA on DR-1791 should register at their local **Work in Texas** office and/or enter their resume into the database at www.workintexas.com.

Resumes are NOT being accepted in person, at the door or from friends and family or by fax or mail.

HOW TO CONTRACT YOUR SERVICES

Wondering how to get government contract work to support Ike recovery and ongoing activities? To market your goods or services, send vendor information to FEMA-Industry@dhs.gov.

For a complete list of resources on how to do business with FEMA, visit <http://www.fema.gov/business/contractor.shtm>.

FEDERAL HURRICANE RESPONSE WIDGET (WEB TOOL) AVAILABLE - PLEASE POST TODAY!

The Federal Hurricane Response widget is a web tool designed to help share information during a major emergency with links to authoritative federal government sites on how to get help; finding friends and family; health and safety information; how to donate and volunteer; and a summary of what the government is doing. The widget is available for anyone to put on their websites, their MySpace pages and their blogs and includes a link to the embedding instructions.

Click here for instructions and the widget:

http://www.dhs.gov/xprepresp/programs/gc_1220128923561.shtm

Have questions? Email Gwynne Kostin, Director, DHS Web Communications at Gwynne.Kostin@hq.dhs.gov

PROTECTING CONSUMERS FOLLOWING HURRICANE IKE

The Federal Trade Commission will be working with the Department of Energy (DOE) and state regulatory agencies to ensure consumers are being treated fairly in the wake of hurricanes Ike and Gustav. The FTC currently maintains a project to monitor gasoline prices nationwide. The project collects and examines data on 360 retail markets and 20 wholesale markets, using a system to identify gasoline pricing patterns that cannot readily be explained by market forces. To read more:

<http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2008/09/ikestmt.shtm>

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>.

BLUE ROOF PROGRAM

Hurricane Ike left many Texas homeowners with damaged roofs. Through a mission-assignment process, FEMA tasks the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide emergency roofing to homeowners seeking to prevent further damage caused by rain. This emergency residential roof covering is a temporary solution that allows individuals to remain in their residence until they can make more permanent repairs or locate alternate temporary housing. Homeowners can have plastic sheeting installed over the damaged area by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contractors, in a program called Operation Blue Roof. To find out more, call the toll-free BLUE ROOF hotline number at 1-888-ROOF-BLU or 1-888-766-3258.

CLEANING UP MOLD

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offer these tips for cleaning up mold quickly after a storm:

- Use bleach to clean mold off of floors, stoves, sinks, countertops, plates, and tools.
- Throw out items that cannot be washed and cleaned with bleach, like dry wall, insulation, mattresses, pillows, carpeting, carpet padding, and stuffed toys.
- Never mix bleach with ammonia or other household cleaners, doing this will produce dangerous, toxic fumes.

For more information on this and other health issues, visit <http://www.emergency.cdc.gov> or call CDC at 800-CDC-INFO.

TEXANS ADVISED TO GET PERMITS, FILE CLAIMS

FEMA's Mitigation Division and the Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management are working to help those affected by Hurricane Ike to rebuild safer, stronger and smarter with the goal of reducing vulnerability in future disasters.

When rebuilding, property owners need to get the appropriate permits. They are advised to contact their local building officials or floodplain administrators to find out whether they are in a FEMA floodplain (Special Flood Hazard Area) and whether their homes or businesses meet the criteria to be considered "substantially damaged."

One of the main ways individuals, families and businesses can protect themselves from flood losses is by carrying flood insurance. Policies are available in communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regardless of the flood risk at the property's location. Policy holders with flood losses should start the claims process contacting their insurance agent or company.

Additional information about flood insurance is available at www.floodsmart.gov.

USEFUL LINKS

- Register with FEMA by logging onto www.fema.gov. For more details on the application process, visit this direct link: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=45814>
- Find a Disaster Recovery Center near you by visiting this link provided by the Governor's Division of Emergency Management: http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/dr1791_drc_list.htm
- Texas Responds (www.texasresponds.org) serves as the State of Texas portal for cash donations to organizations assisting in disasters, offers of non-cash donations and information and a registry for those wanting to volunteer.
- Find out the actions Texas is taking in response to Hurricane Ike on the Governor's web page: (<http://www.governor.state.tx.us/hurricane>)
- For a list of all FEMA news releases related to Hurricane Ike, click here: <http://www.fema.gov/news/eventnews.fema?id=10570>

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.