



# E-News Update

**FEMA**

## PROCUREMENT SEMINARS SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK

Want to prepare your business to work with the government? Join other local businesses in Texas learning how to do business with the federal government for Hurricane Ike recovery. A series of workshops are being held in Pasadena and Lufkin.

FEMA's Local Business Task Force collaborates with multiple local, state and federal partners to implement procurement education seminars. The sessions provide information on the varying phases of the procurement process to support and foster successful business participation in the recovery efforts.

These workshops are sponsored by the FEMA Local Business Task Force, the University of Houston-Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), and the Angelina College Procurement Assistance Center:

- **Wednesday, Oct. 22** – San Jacinto College Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Kaleidoscope Room, 8060 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505, 9 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 23** – Angelina College Procurement Assistance Center  
3500 South First Street, Lufkin, TX 75902, 9 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

These seminars cover a wide range of topics, from information on the Central Contractor Registration process to how to write a strong federal proposal. For a list of additional dates and locations, send an e-mail to [FEMA-Industry@dhs.gov](mailto: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>.

## EXTRA FUNDS AVAILABLE TO SOME FLOOD INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS

Flood insurance policyholders whose structures were damaged 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 make their homes or businesses safe from future floods.

The benefit is called Increased Cost of Compliance or ICC coverage, because it helps pay for the increased cost of complying with the building code. It is a part of most National Flood Insurance Program policies. A policyholder seeking Increased Cost of Compliance funding needs to file a claim that is separate from the basic claim for flood damages.

The money can be used to elevate, demolish or relocate the damaged structure. For non-residential structures, the funds can also be used for floodproofing. The total insurance payout including Increased Cost of Compliance coverage cannot exceed \$250,000 for a residence or \$500,000 for a non-residential structure.

Additional information is available from local floodplain administrators, the National Flood Insurance Program (1-800-427-4661), and insurance companies and agents. Information is also available at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) and [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

## Hazard Mitigation Specialists at The Home Depot Stores

A team of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation specialists will be available on-site at The Home Depot home improvement center to answer questions residents may have about protecting their homes from future disaster damage.

The FEMA representatives will explain flood- and wind-resistant building techniques, and offer advice on topics such as home elevation, safe rooms, wind straps, flood insurance and other measures to make homes stronger and safer. They will also offer publications on similar topics.

A team will be at the following location from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Sunday:

**Monday Oct. 20-Sunday Oct. 26**

The Home Depot  
11820 Dickinson Road  
Houston, TX 77089

**Monday Oct. 27-Sunday Nov. 2**

The Home Depot  
5455 Fairmont St.  
Houston, TX 77005

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSISTS HEARING-IMPAIRED REGISTER WITH FEMA

For the first time, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is using special communications equipment at FEMA/State Disaster Recovery Centers to help applicants with hearing impairment apply for disaster assistance. The first recovery center to use this technology—called Deaf Link—is in Houston at the Ellington Joint Reserve Base, Bldg 1383, 14657 Sneider St.

The hearing-impaired who suffered damage from Hurricane Ike are encouraged to use Deaf Link to register with FEMA.

The Deaf Link program, Video Remote Interpreting, FEMA is using works by connecting a hearing person and a hearing-impaired person, both in the same location, with a qualified ASL interpreter located at Deaf Link's secure communication center.

This is accomplished through Deaf Link's portable two-way video/audio communication monitors that connect to the Internet. The unit transmits the image of the hearing-impaired individual using American Sign Language (ASL) through an encrypted line to an ASL interpreter at Deaf Link's operations center.

The ASL interpreter verbally transmits the applicant's information back to the FEMA representative who, along with the hearing-impaired applicant, sits in front of the Deaf Link unit and communicates using the system. The FEMA representative then enters the applicant's information in the FEMA system.

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## BLUE ROOF PROGRAM EXTENDED

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Operation Blue Roof program, that was tasked by FEMA to provide emergency roofing to homeowners seeking to prevent further rain damage, has been extended for the counties of Galveston, Harris and Jefferson. The new deadline to apply for the free temporary roof covering is Thursday, Oct. 23 COB. The deadline for all other counties has passed.

To have the plastic sheeting installed over the damaged area until they can make more permanent repairs or locate alternate temporary housing Homeowners can call the toll-free BLUE ROOF hotline number, **1-888-ROOF-BLU** or **1-888-766-3258**.

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## HURRICANE IKE ORPHAN DRUM PROGRAM

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) helps retrieve, and safely dispose of, hazardous wastes that pose a threat to human health and the environment. Among these threats are orphan drums. Currently, EPA is picking up orphan drums and containers displaced by Hurricane Ike. The following are questions and answers to help explain the orphan drum program:

### **What is an orphan drum?**

Orphan drums and tanks are containers that may contain hazardous substances such as propane, industrial chemicals and unknown substances.

### **Where are orphan drums located?**

Orphan drums can be found everywhere including yards, fields and alongside roadways.

### **Why are orphan drums dangerous?**

Orphan drums may contain hazardous substances that are harmful to human health and the environment. Orphan drums may be leaking unknown substances and contaminating local air, water and soil.

### **What should I do if I discover an orphan drum?**

Above all, do not open, touch the contents or remove the orphan drum! Report its location to the EPA Hurricane Ike Orphan Container Hotline at **1-800-671-6022**.

EPA personnel will assess the orphan drum container and ship it to a hazardous waste facility for final disposal.

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## FEMA COMPLETES MORE THAN 266,000 HOME INSPECTIONS

More than 2,300 contract inspectors from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have completed more than 266,000 inspections of homes damaged by Hurricane Ike. The inspectors now average 12,000 homes a day.

Damage inspections are free and generally take from 30-45 minutes. FEMA contract inspectors wear official photo identification. Inspectors document the damage but do not determine the resident's eligibility.

Applicants are reminded to keep the information on their applications current so an inspector can reach them. To update their information, applicants should call FEMA's Helpline, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585**.

To speed the inspection process, applicants should make sure their home/mailbox number can be easily seen from the road and should keep their appointment or notify the inspector if a postponement is necessary.

## Disaster Unemployment Assistance Deadline Extended

The deadline to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is extended to **Wednesday, November 12, COB**. To file for DUA, call the nearest Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Tele-Center 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, or call toll-free at (800) 939-6631. Claimants may apply online at <http://www.texasworkforce.org>, but should specify their claim is disaster-related. Claimants may also e-mail TWC at [UIHelp@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:UIHelp@twc.state.tx.us).

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### QUICK REFERENCE

FEMA Registration and Helpline:	800-621-FEMA (3362)	800-462-7585 (TTY)	<a href="http://www.fema.gov">www.fema.gov</a>
SBA	800-659-2955		<a href="http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance">www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance</a>
Disaster Legal Services Hotline:	800-504-7030		
National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System			<a href="http://asd.fema.gov/inter/nefrls/home.htm">asd.fema.gov/inter/nefrls/home.htm</a>
FEMA Private Sector Office	540-359-9078		<a href="mailto:paul.fitzgibbon@dhs.gov">paul.fitzgibbon@dhs.gov</a>
FEMA Landlord Registry	866-766-6086		
FEMA Housing Portal			<a href="https://asd.fema.gov/inter/hportal/home.htm">https://asd.fema.gov/inter/hportal/home.htm</a>
TX Hurricane Ike web page			<a href="http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=10570">http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=10570</a>

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### FEMA'S PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICE

The FEMA Private Sector Office serves as a liaison between the federal government response and the private sector community (businesses, large employers, and non-governmental non-profit agencies). 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](mailto:dianna.gee@dhs.gov).