



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 last section for details.

BUSINESS LEADERS MEET WITH FEMA TO DISCUSS ROLES

Representatives of local business, utilities and government met Nov. 6 with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator David Paulison to discuss ways the private sector can play a bigger role in emergency management efforts.

Paulison said the agency believes that developing strong partnerships with the private sector is important to the agency's mission of reducing the loss of lives and property in the event of a disaster.

He emphasized that FEMA is looking at public-private partnerships as an integrated part of its emergency management plans. Local entities, such as business organizations, nonprofits and chambers of commerce, provide a ready-made network of contacts when a disaster hits. Advance preparation by such organizations, such as creating an emergency plan and obtaining adequate insurance, can speed recovery from disasters.

Nelson Balido, director of FEMA's Private Sector Office, told the 25 business and government leaders that FEMA is reaching out to key business partners to discuss issues and seek counsel on how to integrate private sector resources. Through the Private Sector Office, FEMA hopes to provide the private sector with a single entry point of contact with the agency.

Among those attending last week's meeting were U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, (R-The Woodlands); Harris County Judge Ed Emmett; representatives of Entergy-Texas, CenterPoint Energy and Chevron-Phillips; the Port of Orange; Greater Houston Partnership; and small business representatives from Greater Houston, Greater Beaumont and Orange County.

To meet the expanding needs of this disaster, FEMA has increased staffing with private-sector liaisons and support in its Joint Field Office and Area Field Offices.

SITUATION UPDATE :

CLOSE OF BUSINESS FRIDAY, NOV. 14, 2008

- Housing and Other Needs Assistance: \$367,988,879
- Small Business Administration approved loan amounts: \$284,567,900

- New Deadlines:
 - FEMA registration: Dec. 12, 2008
 - Submitting SBA loan package: Dec. 12, 2008
 - Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA): Jan. 15, 2009

FEMA REACHING OUT TO DETERMINE DIRECT HOUSING NEEDS

FEMA Community Relations teams are canvassing city neighborhoods and knocking on the doors of applicants to determine the registrants' housing needs, whether for repair grants or temporary manufactured homes. Many Texans who registered with FEMA after Hurricane Ike have moved or are no longer at the phone numbers that were originally given to operators.

This has made it difficult for the agency to follow up with the applicants to determine their eligibility for temporary manufactured housing. The teams began Monday, Nov. 10 visiting the cities of South Houston, Shoreacres, Seabrook, Pasadena, La Porte, Baytown and Jacinto City.

This mission is being extended to area chambers of commerce who are asking members to help by hosting Employee Disaster Assistance workshops to address issues of lost applicants and housing issues.

Applicants may update their contact information anytime by calling the toll-free FEMA Helpline at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or the TTY line, 1-800-462-7585. Applicants can also update their contact information on the FEMA Web site at www.fema.gov.

DEADLINE FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENDED

For any employees laid off due to Hurricane Ike, the deadline to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has been extended to Dec. 12.

To apply, workers can go online to www.texasworkforce.org or call a Texas Workforce Unemployment Insurance Tele-Center, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.– 5 p.m. in:

Austin 512-340-4300	El Paso 915-832-6400	Houston 281-983-1100	San Antonio 210-258-6600
Dallas 972-339-6200	Fort Worth 817-420-1600	McAllen 956-984-4700	Elsewhere 1-800-939-6631

DUA applies to Texans in the 34 counties designated to receive assistance for individuals, whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted due to the hurricane, as well as anyone living outside a designated county whose employment in a designated county was affected.

The 34 counties are Angelina, Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Cherokee, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Smith, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Waller and Washington.

FREE WORKSHOP EXPLAINS HOW TO CONTRACT WITH FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is hosting a free workshop for local businesses interested in government disaster contract work.

The workshop will be held **Tuesday, Nov. 18**, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at **Prairie View A&M University**, National Alumni Association Building, 148 University Dr., Prairie View, TX 77445.

FEMA, the Prairie View Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are sponsoring the event.

Presentations will include information on how to:

- Register with Dun and Bradstreet for a contractor DUNS number
- Register with the Central Contractor Registration
- 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.

The event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. To register, send a fax to Chamber President George Higgs at **1-936-857-5806**. Attendance does not guarantee a contract award.

FEMA TEAMS OFFER HOME REPAIR ADVICE AT LOCAL STORES

Teams of hazard mitigation specialists with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be at five Texas stores, answering questions residents may have about protecting their homes from future disaster damage, as well as other home storm-damage questions.

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

The schedule for the week of Nov. 17-23 includes the following:

BRAZORIA COUNTY

The Home Depot
140 N. Bypass 35
Alvin, TX 77511
Tues-Sun, Nov. 18-23
7 a.m.-7 p.m.

HARRIS COUNTY

Lowe's
6161 E. Sam Houston Pkwy N.
Houston, TX 77049
Tues-Sun, Nov. 18-23
8 a.m.-6 p.m.

ORANGE COUNTY

Wal-Mart
795 Texas Ave.
Bridge City, TX 77611
Mon-Sat, Nov. 17-22
8 a.m.-6 p.m.

GALVESTON COUNTY

Lowe's
3620 Emmett F. Lowry Expy
Texas City, TX 77550
Tues-Sun, Nov. 18-23
7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Lowe's
1521 North Loop West
Houston, TX 77008
Tues-Sun, Nov. 18-23
8 a.m.-6 p.m.

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 the word "UNSUBSCRIBE" 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

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