



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.

TRAGEDY IS STILL VISIBLE, BUT THANKS ARE APPROPRIATE

This week, friends and relatives will gather together to observe Thanksgiving, a holiday based on the premise of being grateful for those things we have rather than looking at what we don't have. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and all the men and women involved in the disaster response and recovery realize that Hurricane Ike took a lot away from many people. We are particularly grateful for the local, state and federal partners, and the community and faith-based organizations, that have worked with us these past months in bringing aid to the state and its citizens in this difficult year.

---The Private Sector Staff

SITUATION UPDATE:

CLOSE OF BUSINESS SUNDAY, NOV.23, 2008

- Housing and Other Needs Assistance: \$383,811,395
- Small Business Administration approved loan amounts: \$331,867,800
 - Including low-interest business loans – 484 \$41,533,600
- Current Deadlines:
 - FEMA registration and submitting SBA loan package: Dec. 12, 2008
 - Transitional Shelter Assistance in Hotels & Motels (TSA): Jan. 15, 2009
 - SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan: June 15, 2009

FEMA PARTNER SBA HELPING THOUSANDS TO REBUILD

Since Hurricane Ike hit Texas on Sept. 13, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved more than \$331 million in low-interest disaster loans for property damage.

	Applications Issued	Apps Received	Approved	Amount
Home	381,023	32,850	5,363	\$290,344,200
Business	79,406	5,216	484	\$41,533,600
Total	460,429	38,066	5,847	\$331,867,800

These loans help homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations pay for property repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the costs of replacing lost or storm-damaged personal property.

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Contact Phone: 512-465-5858, **Fax:** 512-465-5867, **email:** FEMA-TX-PRIVATE-SECTOR@FEMA.GOV

In addition, small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and certain private, non-profit organizations of all sizes that suffered substantial economic injury resulting from the disaster may be eligible for the **SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program**. Substantial economic injury is the inability of a business to meet its obligations as they mature and to pay its ordinary and necessary operating expenses.

An EIDL can help organizations meet necessary financial obligations that could have been met had the disaster not occurred. If the organization is unable to obtain credit elsewhere, the SBA can provide up to \$2 million in disaster assistance. This loan cap includes both economic injury and physical damage assistance.

Loan amounts are based on actual economic injury and financial needs. The interest rate cannot exceed 4 percent per year and the term cannot exceed 30 years. Both are based on the applicant's ability to repay the loan.

Both property and economic injury disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses, and do not duplicate the benefits of other agencies or organizations. Texas disaster victims may file an SBA disaster loan assistance application online via SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Small business owners may get help from SBA representatives at any Disaster Recovery Center, SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center or Business Assistance Center in Texas. For location listing contact SBA's Customer Service Center **1-800-659-2955** or by email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll free (800) 877-8339 or visit SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is Dec. 12, 2008. The deadline for Economic Injury Disaster Loans is June 15, 2009.

TWO FREE CONTRACTING WORKSHOPS SET FOR COMING WEEKS

Contractors interested in learning how to do business with the federal government following Hurricane Ike have a chance to do so in two upcoming workshops.

Galveston – Nov. 25

The “**Disaster Contracting with Local Vendors**” workshop will be held Tuesday, **Nov. 25**, from 9 a.m. to noon at **San Luis Resort**, 5222 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77551.

It is sponsored by FEMA, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce, The San Luis Resort and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Presentations 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.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, email Chamber President Gina Spagnola at gspagnola@galvestonchamber.com.

Corpus Christi – Dec. 2

The **Bids and Proposals Preparation** class will be on Tuesday, **Dec. 2**, from 2 to 5 p.m. at **Del Mar College**, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples, Room 167, Corpus Christi, TX 78404.

It is sponsored by FEMA, the Small Business Development Center Network – South-West Texas Border, Del Mar College, and the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) – Corpus Christi.

Participants will learn how to:

- Register with Dun & Bradstreet for a contractor DUNS number.
- Register with Central Contractor Registration (CCR)
- Respond to Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and Requests for Quotations (RFQs).
- Utilize available local resources.
- Develop a strong proposal.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, call the Del Mar College registration office at **1-361-698-1328** or **1-361-698-1064**.

Attendance at either workshop does not guarantee a contract award.

FEMA TEAMS OFFER HOME REPAIR ADVICE AT LOCAL STORES

Teams of FEMA hazard mitigation specialists will be at four Texas stores, answering questions residents may have about protecting their homes from future disaster damage, as well as other home storm-damage questions.

The FEMA representatives 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 also offer publications on similar topics.

The schedule for the week of Nov. 24-30 includes the following:

HARRIS COUNTY

The Home Depot
12727 FM 1960 West
Houston, TX 77065
Nov. 25-30
Tuesday-Sunday
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Lowe's
28005 S.W. Freeway
Rosenberg, TX 77471
Nov. 25-30
Tuesday-Sunday
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

GALVESTON COUNTY

Bohn's Building
Materials
1315 Texas Ave.
Texas City, TX 77590
Nov. 24-29
Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat 8 a.m.-noon

ORANGE COUNTY

Walmart
3115 Edgar Brown Drive
Orange City, TX 77630
Nov. 24-29
Monday-Saturday
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

PILOT PROJECT BRINGS ASSISTANCE TO EMPLOYERS

In a special pilot project, FEMA Private Sector arranged for a Mobile Disaster Recovery Center (MDRC) to be set up in an Orange County industrial park where more than 28,000 Texans work. In the effort, led by the Orange County Economic Development Corporation, 14 local businesses arranged transportation for more than 60 employees who came to the MDRC for assistance. By setting up a scheduled shuttle, the flow through the pilot MDRC was controlled and time away from work was reduced. The results of this pilot effort are being reviewed to see if this may be a viable, economically feasible effort in the future.

LOOKING FOR DIRT ALONG TEXAS' COAST THAT IS HIGH & DRY

In severely impacted Texas coastal counties, FEMA is searching for sites to place groups of mobile homes. In some areas, not only are homes destroyed, but there are few apartments or hotels to house the evacuees. FEMA teams have been working with many local resources to identify sites.

If you are the owner of vacant property in an impacted coastal county that is relatively flat, with access to a 6" water main, and out of the floodplain or other restrictive areas, please **call 1-866-766-6086** if you are interested in leasing your property. This is also the line that landlords with available rental properties can call to list their properties.

FEMA PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICE

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