FEMA Offers Repair and Rebuilding Advice on Building Back Stronger

Release Date: July 19, 2019

Oklahoma City, OK – As Oklahomans rebuild and repair homes and businesses damaged by the recent storms and flooding, FEMA and Lowe's have teamed up to provide free information, tips and literature on how to make homes stronger and safer during the rebuilding process.

FEMA mitigation specialists will be on hand to answer questions and offer home improvement tips and methods to prevent or reduce damage from future disasters, and techniques to build hazard-resistant homes. Most of the information and free publications provided are geared for do-it-yourself work and general contractors.

Recovery topics include flood insurance, elevating utilities, safe rooms and rebuilding flooded homes.

All information and assistance will be available in English and Spanish.

Starting Saturday, July 20, FEMA advisors will be available from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday and on Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., through Saturday, July 27, at the following locations:

Canadian County Lowe's 1000 E. State Hwy. 152



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Cherokee County

Lowe's 161 Meadow Creek Dr. Tahlequah, OK 74464

Pottawatomie County Lowe's

4817 N. Kickapoo Ave. Shawnee, OK 74804

Survivors impacted by the tornados and flooding that occurred from May 7 to June 9, 2019 can register online at <u>www.DisasterAssistance.gov</u> or toll-free at 800-621-3362 (voice, 711/VRS - Video Relay Service). Multilingual operators are available. (Press 2 for Spanish). For TTY call 800-462-7585. Lines are open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

Registering with FEMA is the first step toward qualifying for disaster assistance, which may include grants to help homeowners and renters pay for temporary housing, essential home repairs, personal property replacements and disaster-related needs not covered by insurance.

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FEMA's mission is to help before, during and after disasters.



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Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For more information, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling 800-659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's website at <u>SBA.gov/disaster</u>. Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call 800-877-8339.



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