

Be Aware of Fraud After a Disaster

Release Date: June 14, 2024

MADISON, Miss. – Disaster survivors should be aware that con artists and criminals may try to obtain money or steal personal information through fraud or identity theft after a disaster. In some cases, thieves try to apply for FEMA assistance using names, addresses and Social Security numbers they have stolen from survivors.

If a FEMA inspector comes to your home and you did not submit a FEMA application, your information may have been used without your knowledge to create a FEMA application. If so, please inform the inspector that you did not apply for FEMA assistance so they can submit a request to stop further processing of the application.

If you did not apply for assistance but receive a letter from FEMA, please call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. The helpline will submit a request to stop any further processing of that application.

Scams

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance teams, housing inspectors and other officials will be working in areas affected by the April tornadoes in Mississippi. They carry official identification badges with photo IDs. FEMA and U.S. Small Business Administration representatives never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections or help in filling out applications.

Don't believe anyone who promises a disaster grant in return for payment.

Don't give your banking information to a person claiming to be a FEMA housing inspector. FEMA inspectors are never authorized to collect your personal financial information.

If you believe you are the victim of a scam, report it immediately to law enforcement authorities.



If you suspect fraudulent activity involving FEMA, call the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721, email the FEMA Fraud Branch at StopFEMAFraud@fema.dhs.gov, or write to: FEMA Fraud and Internal Investigation Division, 400 C Street SW Mail Stop 3005, Washington, DC 20472-3005.

If you suspect identity theft, please visit [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov).

For the latest information on recovery from the April tornadoes, visit msema.org and www.fema.gov/disaster/4790. On X/Twitter follow MEMA [@MSEMA](https://twitter.com/MSEMA) and FEMA Region 4 [@femaregion4](https://twitter.com/femaregion4).

