FEMA Calls May Come from Unfamiliar Phone Numbers

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— After Floridians apply for disaster assistance, FEMA may call them to schedule an inspection of the damaged home, or to obtain more information to process the application. These calls may come from unfamiliar area codes or phone numbers.

It is important to answer the call. A FEMA inspection may be required to determine whether a home is safe, sanitary, functional and accessible. If an inspection cannot be scheduled, that may cause a delay in FEMA's review of the application.

FEMA specialists may call to obtain more information to process an application, or they may contact applicants who started an application and did not complete it.

FEMA never asks for money in return for disaster assistance. Personnel conducting home inspections to verify damage carry photo ID and never charge for services. If someone asks for money for disaster assistance, they do not represent FEMA. Be alert to fraud, which sometimes follows a disaster.

Homeowners and renters are encouraged to apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by using the FEMA App. You may also apply by phone at 800-621-3362. If you choose to apply by phone, please understand wait times may be longer because of increased volume for multiple recent disasters. Lines are open every day and help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service. For an accessible video on how to apply for assistance go to FEMA Accessible: Applying for Individual Assistance - YouTube.

If you applied to FEMA after Hurricanes Debby and Helene and have additional damage from Hurricane Milton, you will need to apply separately for Milton and provide the dates of your most recent damage.

For the latest information about Hurricane Milton recovery, visit fema.gov/disaster/4834. For Hurricane Helene, visit fema.gov/disaster/4828. For



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Hurricane Debby, visit <u>fema.gov/disaster/4806</u>. Follow FEMA on X at <u>x.com/femaregion4</u> or on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/fema</u>.

