

How to Document Ownership and Occupancy of Your Damaged Home

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As part of the disaster assistance process, FEMA must determine ownership and occupancy of damaged primary residences. After experiencing losses from the June 23 – Aug. 5 severe storms, flooding and landslides, New Mexico homeowners and renters need to prove they occupied their home at the time of the disaster before they can receive assistance. FEMA accepts a broad range of documentation.

To prove ownership:

Homeowners may provide official documentation including:

- Original deed or deed of trust to the property
- Mortgage statement or escrow analysis
- Property tax receipt or property tax bill
- Manufactured home certificate or title
- In addition, FEMA accepts a public official's signed statement or receipts for major repairs or improvements.
- A signed statement from a commercial or mobile home park owner or, as a last resort, a signed self-certification that you own a mobile home or travel trailer

Individuals with heirship properties (property inherited without a will) who do not have the traditional documentation of ownership also may self-certify ownership as a last resort.

To prove occupancy:

Homeowners and renters must document that they occupied the damaged dwelling at the time of the disaster. If an applicant has successfully verified occupancy to FEMA for a previous disaster within a two-year period, they do not need to do it again.



Acceptable documentation to prove occupancy can include:

- Utility bills, bank or credit card statements, phone bills, etc.
- Written lease agreement or rent receipts
- Employer's or a public official's statement
- Motor vehicle registration or letters from local schools (public or private), federal or state benefit providers, social service organizations or court documents
- Letter prepared after the disaster by a mobile home park or manager confirming your occupancy at the time of the disaster

How to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance

Homeowners and renters in **Doña Ana County** and **Lincoln County** who had damage from the severe storms, flooding and landslides that occurred June 23 – Aug. 5 may apply for federal assistance.

- The fastest way to apply to FEMA is online at DisasterAssistance.gov or the Spanish language website DisasterAssistance.gov/es.
- For a list of locations to get in-person help, visit [FEMA's DRC Locator](#).
- Call the **FEMA Helpline** at **800-621-3362** between **5 a.m. and 9 p.m. MT daily**. Help is available in most languages. Press **2** for Spanish. If you use a relay service such as video relay, captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.
- You can also download the [FEMA App](#) for mobile devices.

For the latest information about New Mexico's recovery, visit fema.gov/disaster/4886. Follow FEMA Region 6 on Facebook at facebook.com/femaregion6 and on X at x.com/FEMARegion6



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