NR: APPLYING FOR FEMA ASSISTANCE

If you were impacted by the April 12 tornadoes, severe storms, winds or flooding in Covington, Jefferson Davis or Jones counties, you may be eligible for assistance from FEMA.

FEMA has programs that may provide some financial assistance for eligible survivors. The financial assistance you may receive will help you get back on your feet and may include: assistance for housing and other serious disaster-related needs such as childcare, medical and dental expenses.

First, if you haven’t already done so, contact your insurance company and file a claim for the disaster-caused damage you’ve suffered. You don’t have to wait to start cleaning up but be sure to take photographs or video of the damage and also keep all receipts for repair work.

If you have uninsured or underinsured losses, contact FEMA by either going online to [disasterassistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov/) or by calling 800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585). Appying for assistance takes about 30 minutes. Information that may be useful to have when you apply includes:

• Address of the location where the damage occurred (pre-disaster address)

• Current mailing address

• Current telephone number

• Insurance information

• Total household annual income

• Routing and account number for checking or savings account (this allows FEMA to directly transfer disaster assistance funds into a bank account)

• A description of disaster-caused damage and losses

If you reported that you cannot or may not be able to safely live in your home, it may be necessary for FEMA to perform an inspection of the damaged dwelling. Due to the COVID-19 nationwide emergency and the need to protect the safety and health of all Americans, all FEMA field operations are suspended, inspections will be conducted remotely, by phone.

FEMA inspectors will contact applicants by phone to answer questions about the type and extent of damage sustained. To verify that the inspector is speaking to the correct applicant, the inspector will ask for the last four digits of the FEMA Registration ID—a nine-digit number given after completing a FEMA application. The inspector will then provide the first four digits of the applicant’s Registration ID to complete the verification process.

Remote inspections provide a new way of evaluating damage; comparable to traditional, in-person inspections and expedites the delivery of recovery assistance to survivors based on their eligibility.

Survivors with minimal damage who can live in their homes will not automatically be scheduled for a home inspection when applying to FEMA, however, they may request an inspection.

Remote inspections have no impact on the types of Other Needs Assistance available that do not require an inspection. This includes childcare, transportation, medical and dental, funeral expenses, moving and storage, and Group Flood Insurance Policy Assistance.

If you have any questions, you can always contact the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362(TTY 800-462-7585). For TTY call 800-462-7585. If you use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS) please call 800-621-3362.