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Disaster News

START THE RECOVERY PROCESS: REGISTER FOR ASSISTANCE

FORT MONMOUTH – Residents of 12 New Jersey counties who suffered damages as a result of the severe storms and flooding that began on March 12 are urged to register for disaster assistance as soon as possible.

Federal funding has been made available to affected individuals in Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, and Union Counties.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said residents and business owners who sustained losses can register by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or for the speech or hearing impaired TTY 1-800-462-7585, or online anytime at www.disasterassistance.gov. These toll-free telephone numbers will operate 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. seven days a week, until further notice.

“Do it now. Get into the FEMA system,” said State Coordinating Officer Lt. Bill McDonnell. “We urge affected residents to go online or make that call, to make that first step towards recovery.”

Individuals and business owners should register even if they have flood insurance. Some losses may not be covered by insurance but federal grants may cover those expenses.

Registering with FEMA is required for federal assistance, even if the person has registered with another disaster relief organization such as the American Red Cross, local officials or churches. Applicants will need to provide:

- Social Security number
- Address of the damaged home or apartment
- Description of the damage
- Information about insurance coverage
- A current contact telephone number
- An address where you can get mail
- Bank account and routing numbers if they want direct deposit of any financial assistance

“We understand that the people of New Jersey have been through some tough times, and we are here ready to help. We strongly recommend that you register right away.” said FEMA’s Federal Coordinating Officer William L. Vogel.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

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FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.