

SNAP Information – February 2017 Tornadoes

February 8, 2017

Residents who are eligible for SNAP benefits and were impacted by the February 7 tornadoes have access to federal disaster food assistance through the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. *Regular income and asset eligibility standards will apply.*

- Although the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) has not been activated for the February 7, 2017, storm, anyone who is not already receiving regular SNAP benefits can apply for SNAP by visiting <http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/> and clicking on “Assistance.”
 - SNAP and DSNAP are administered in Louisiana by DCFS and overseen by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service.
- **SNAP Replacement Benefits.** Victims of a household misfortune who lost food purchased with SNAP benefits can apply for replacement benefits through DCFS. *Note: An actual loss of food benefits would be required to be eligible for replacement benefits.*
 - To apply for replacement benefits, the SNAP household must report the destruction or loss of food verbally or in writing within 10 calendar days of the household misfortune, and then must execute the sworn affidavit (SNAP 38) within 10 calendar days of the report of the household misfortune. For the February 7th storm, the deadline to make a report and file an affidavit will be February 17th.
 - If a SNAP household reports food loss within the 10-day period but cannot travel to a DCFS office to sign the affidavit due to age, handicap, or distance from the office, a DCFS worker will mail the affidavit to the household. The head of the SNAP household must sign it and return it to the Document Processing Center.
 - To find a DCFS office near you, click [here](#).
- **Power outages.** If the household misfortune is a power outage, the power must have been out for a minimum of 24 hours, in keeping with federal rules. DCFS works with the Louisiana Public Service Commission to obtain reports of specific areas of power outages.
- **Value of Replacement.** The value of the replacement benefit shall be in an amount equal to the value of the lost food purchased with SNAP benefits, up to a maximum of one month’s SNAP benefits. If eligible, the replacement benefits are added to the SNAP household’s regular EBT card.
- **Lost EBT cards** – Current SNAP recipients who lost their EBT cards during the disaster must contact the EBT Call Center at 1-888-997-1117. A new card will be mailed to them at that time with instructions on how to activate the card and set the PIN. *Clients cannot obtain replacement EBT cards through the local office.*
- **More information** – Visit the DCFS website at <http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/> or contact the DCFS call center at 1-888-LAHELP-U (1-888-524-3578).