



**FEMA**

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News Desk: 225-382-1599

# News Release

## **Louisiana Survivors: Share Disaster Recovery Information with Friends and Neighbors**

**Baton Rouge, La.** – Word of mouth is a powerful way to spread news. Amazing as it may seem, some people are so busy with their recovery from the March severe storms and floods, they may not have heard about federal help. Spread the word that the first step toward getting recovery assistance is to register with FEMA.

You could be the one to bring this important message to someone you know, perhaps a friend, neighbor, coworker, family member or acquaintance. Affected individuals, households and communities in Louisiana will be able to recover faster and stronger.

Damage caused by the storms and floods may not be apparent right now. By registering with FEMA, folks may be able to get help if they find damage later.

Let your neighbors know they may be eligible for grants for home repairs, or to replace personal property damaged by the flooding that started March 8 and continues. These grants do not have to be repaid.

Even if your parish has not been designated a disaster area, you can still register now and get help later if the parish is added to the federal disaster declaration.

For information call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 or go online to [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or [www.fema.gov/disaster/4263](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4263). Disaster survivors who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call 800-462-7585 to register. Those who use 211 or Video Relay Service or require accommodations while visiting a center may call 800-621-3362. All disaster recovery centers are accessible and equipped with tools to accommodate disaster survivors who need disability-related communication aids.

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*We urge everyone to continue to use caution in areas where floodwaters remain. Monitor the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's [www.511la.org](http://www.511la.org) website for updated road closure information. Look for advisories from your local authorities and emergency managers. You can find the latest information on the state's response at [www.emergency.la.gov](http://www.emergency.la.gov). GOHSEP also*

*provides information on Facebook and Twitter. You can receive emergency alerts on most smartphones and tablets by downloading the new Alert FM App. It is free for basic service. You can also download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org).*

*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.*

*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. Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/femaregion6> and the FEMA Blog at <http://blog.fema.gov>.*

*The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For more information, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster). Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call (800)877-8339.*

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