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# News Release

## **DISASTER ASSISTANCE REGISTRATION EXTENSION GRANTED**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved a request from the State of Tennessee for a 30-day extension of the deadline to register for federal assistance for those affected by the severe storms and flooding between April 30 and May 18, 2010.

Tennesseans can now file for Individual Assistance through August 5, 2010.

Likewise, the deadline to submit loan applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has also been extended through August 5, 2010. While no one is required to take out an SBA loan, applications are a key part of the FEMA registration process. A loan denial may open up other assistance to eligible applicants.

"The additional time for disaster survivors to discover the extent of their damage, file for assistance, and prepare their claims is important for a full recovery from this storm of historic proportions," said Federal Coordinating Officer Gracia Szczech.

To date, FEMA has approved more than \$141 million in aid to disaster households in the state, while the SBA has approved nearly \$89 million in low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations.

FEMA will also take applications for assistance during the upcoming holiday weekend. Disaster survivors in the counties designated for Individual Assistance, may apply online anytime at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or call the FEMA helpline at **800-621-3362 (FEMA)** or (TTY) **800-462-7585** for those with speech and hearing disabilities. The helpline operates seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and assistance is available in all languages.

You must register with FEMA to receive federal disaster assistance. Filing damage reports with state or county emergency managers or voluntary agencies will not start the process.

(MORE)

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When applying for help, be sure to have the following information available:

- Your current telephone number.
- Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you now are staying.
- Your Social Security number.
- A general list of damages and losses you suffered.
- If insured, the name of your company or agent and your policy number.
- Bank account coding if you wish to speed up your assistance by using direct deposit.

*Follow the recovery in Tennessee online at <http://twitter.com/tema>, [www.twitter.com/femainfocus](http://www.twitter.com/femainfocus), <http://www.facebook.com/TNDisasterInfo>, [www.youtube.com/fema](http://www.youtube.com/fema) and [http://www.flickr.com/photos/t\\_e\\_m\\_a](http://www.flickr.com/photos/t_e_m_a).*

*The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA and TEMA do not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.*

*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.*

*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 temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.*

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