



# News Release

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## **MISSISSIPPIANS AFFECTED BY SEVERE SPRING STORMS AND TORNADOES CAN APPLY FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**PEARL** – People in five Mississippi counties—Attala, Choctaw, Holmes, Warren and Yazoo—are now eligible for Individual Assistance from the state and the Federal Emergency Management Agency as they recover from severe spring storms, tornadoes and flooding that struck Mississippi during April 23-April 24.

“We are pleased to get the federal support in the five counties approved by this disaster declaration,” said Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Director Mike Womack. “It’s been an extremely difficult few days for folks in the tornadoes’ path and they have been looking for the help these disaster programs can provide while they recover.”

Anyone who experienced damages in any of the designated counties may complete an online application at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or apply by phone by calling **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 800-462-7585** for the hearing or speech-impaired. The toll-free numbers are available seven days a week, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., until further notice. Help in other languages is available.

“Tornado survivors should apply as soon as possible. They don’t have to wait for an insurance inspection to begin the registration process,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Michael Bolch. “We look forward to working with the state and we expect a smooth operation as we move quickly to assist Mississippians in their recovery efforts.”

FEMA’s Individual Assistance program can help eligible applicants with temporary housing assistance, uninsured personal property losses and medical, dental, and funeral expenses caused by the disaster, along with other disaster-related expenses and serious needs. Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration also will be available to cover residential and business losses not covered by insurance.

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

*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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