



News Release

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DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER OPENS IN HOLMES COUNTY

JACKSON — A Disaster Recovery Center operated by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is open in Holmes County for those affected by severe storms, flooding and tornadoes that struck April 23-April 24.

The Disaster Recovery Center is set up at the Lexington Multi-purpose Center, 22521 Depot St. in Lexington. The center is open every day from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice.

Disaster officials ask that before visiting the centers, people first register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 800-462-7585**. The toll-free numbers are staffed 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week until further notice. Help in all languages is available.

Once registered, staff at the recovery center can check an individual's case, answer questions about their claim, or review information needed to process their claim. Recovery specialists also can supply contacts for other programs that may be able to help.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) representatives will be at the disaster center to answer any questions about the SBA's low-interest disaster loan program for homeowners, renters, businesses and private non-profit organizations of all sizes. These loans are to repair or replace real estate and/or personal property damaged by the tornado.

Representatives will help complete and accept SBA disaster loan applications. Anyone not able to go to a DRC should call the SBA Customer Service Center from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, toll-free at 800-659-2955 for information and assistance, or visit the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance or send an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

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.

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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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