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FEMA News Desk: (404) 358-2776

News Release

North Carolina Survivors Have Four Ways to Register for Help from FEMA

RALEIGH, N.C. – If you are a North Carolina homeowner, renter or business owner who sustained property damage as a result of the recent flooding that followed Hurricane Matthew, you are urged to register with FEMA as you may be eligible for federal and state disaster assistance.

The presidential disaster declaration makes federal Individual Assistance available to eligible families, individuals and business owners in Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Craven, Columbus, Cumberland, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Pender, Pitt, Robeson, Sampson, Tyrrell, Washington, Wayne and Wilson counties.

You may register in the following ways:

- Online at DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Call the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362** (**FEMA**). Applicants who use **711** or Video Relay Service may also call **800-621-3362**. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a **TTY** may call **800-462-7585**.
- Download the <u>FEMA Mobile App.</u>
- Many survivors may not have access to a working telephone or internet, so those who need to
 do so, can visit a Disaster Recovery Center, or DRC. Find the nearest DRC by going online
 to www.fema.gov/drc.
 - O Survivors requiring a reasonable accommodation (American Sign Language interpreting, Braille large print, etc.) also may wish to visit a DRC. When visiting a DRC, these survivors may call the appropriate Helpline number for support. The toll-free numbers are open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week. Help is available in most languages, and information on the registration process is available in ASL at http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/111546.

You may be eligible for grants for temporary housing and home repairs, and for other serious disaster-related needs, such as medical and dental expenses or funeral and burial costs. You may also be eligible for long-term, low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. These loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

Registering with FEMA is required for federal aid, even if you have registered with another disaster-relief organization such as the American Red Cross, or local community or church organization.

You must use the name that appears on your Social Security card.

You will be asked to provide:

- o Your Social Security number
- o Address of the damaged home or apartment
- o Description of the damage
- o Information about insurance coverage
- o A current contact telephone number
- o An address where you can get mail
- o Bank account and routing numbers if you want direct deposit of any financial assistance.

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North Carolina Survivors Have Four Ways to Register for Help from FEMA – Page 3

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 800-621-3362 or TTY at 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 FEMA on twitter at @femaregion4. Download the FEMA app with tools and tips to keep you safe before, during, and after disasters.

Dial 2-1-1 to speak with a trained call specialist about questions you have regarding Hurricane Matthew; the service is free, confidential and available in any language. They can help direct you to resources. Call 5-1-1 for the latest road conditions or check the ReadyNC mobile app, which also has real-time shelter and evacuation information. For updates on Hurricane Matthew impacts and relief efforts, go to ReadyNC.org or follow N.C. Emergency Management on Twitter and Facebook. People or organizations that want to help ensure North Carolina recovers can visit NCdisasterrelief.org or text NCRecovers to 30306.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations 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 Customer Service Center by calling 800-659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/disaster. Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call 800-877-8339.