



FEMA

Disaster News

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DISASTER ASSISTANCE TOPS \$180,000

SEATTLE—Since the federal disaster declaration of Jan. 30th, residents have received more than **\$180,000** in recovery assistance.

To date, **408** applicants have registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In addition, **91** homes have been inspected to verify disaster-related damages.

Under the disaster declaration of Jan. 30, 2009, federal assistance is available to affected individuals in King, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston and Wahkiakum counties. Eligible assistance can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) also will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Receiving FEMA-State assistance begins with registering with FEMA. Applicants can register for FEMA assistance by calling, toll-free, **1-800-621-3362 (FEMA)**, TTY 1-800-462-7585. Operators are available between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. seven days a week. Applicants can also register online at www.disasterassistance.gov. Registration deadline is March 31, 2009.

“Remember, the only way to begin the recovery assistance process is to call **1-800-621-3362 (FEMA)**,” said State Coordinating Officer Kurt Hardin. “People may have called their local emergency managers, their insurance agents or 2-1-1 nonprofit agencies, but these calls will not register them for federal-state aid.”

“The sooner you register with FEMA,” adds Federal Coordinating Officer Willie Nunn, “the sooner you may be eligible for assistance.”

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

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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The 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 homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private nonprofit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For information about SBA programs, applicants may call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY 1-800-877-8339). Homeowners, renters and business owners with questions for the SBA should call the Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY 1-800-877-8339). Homeowners, renters and business owners with questions for the SBA should call the Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955.

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