



FEMA

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Disaster News

TIPS TO HASTEN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

LA CROSSE, Wis. — Completing the disaster assistance process can seem overwhelming, especially because of what it means – dealing with a disaster. There are steps you can take to speed up the process, according to officials from Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

- Register by telephone or online as soon as possible. Homeowners, renters and business owners who had losses as a result of the severe storms and flooding Aug. 18-31 should call FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for individuals with hearing or speech impairments, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. You can register online at www.fema.gov. Notifying local officials or registering with voluntary agencies such as the American Red Cross is not the same as registering with FEMA. The deadline to apply for assistance is Oct. 25.
- If you haven't heard back from FEMA within a week of registration, call the toll-free numbers to check on the status of your application.
- Forms should be filled out and returned as soon as possible. After registering, individuals may receive a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest disaster loan application package in the mail. Fill out and return these forms promptly, or visit an SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) for assistance. You are not obligated to accept an SBA loan, but filling out the loan application is a necessary step to be considered for other disaster assistance.
- Stay in touch with FEMA. If your contact information changes or you receive an insurance settlement, call the toll-free numbers above. You should also call to update your application, if you have questions or want to check on the status of your application.
- Register even if you are insured. Your insurance coverage may not cover everything. By law FEMA disaster assistance cannot duplicate insurance coverage.

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- Keep appointments after you have registered for disaster assistance. A FEMA inspector will make an appointment to visit your home. Make every effort to be at the damaged property for the visit. Call if you need to change the appointment.
- Visit an SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center to meet face-to-face with recovery specialists. If you have questions or need more information, centers are open Monday – Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the following locations:
 - Crawford – North Crawford High School – Media Center Room 218, 47050 County Road X, Soldiers Grove, WI
 - Dane – Robertson Road Facility, 4318 Robertson Rd., Madison, WI
 - Kenosha, Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th St., Intersection of US 45 & US 50, Bristol, WI
 - La Crosse, Town of Shelby Town Hall, 2801 Ward Ave., La Crosse, WI
 - Racine, Western Racine County Service Center, 209 N. Main St., Burlington, WI
 - Richland, Production Services Building, 301 Industrial Drive, Richland Center, WI – **Closing Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 6 p.m.**
 - Vernon, Living Faith Church, 852 N. Main St., Viroqua, WI

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FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.