



News Release

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DISASTER ASSISTANCE IS FOR RENTERS TOO

BURLINGTON, Vt. – Renters in 12 Vermont counties with losses due to Tropical Storm Irene are eligible for federal disaster assistance.

“Irene did not discriminate between homeowners and renters,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Craig Gilbert, leader of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s mission in Vermont. “We’re here to help everyone who is eligible for assistance—and that definitely includes renters.”

Renters who were displaced from their homes by the storm may be eligible for a FEMA grant to help them pay rent for temporary housing. These rental grants are for a limited period until renters’ previous homes are again habitable or they find another home.

FEMA maintains a list of rentals in the affected counties that is accessible on the FEMA housing portal, go.usa.gov/OfI. A list of rentals may also be obtained by calling FEMA’s helpline, **800-621-FEMA (3362)**, TTY **800-462-7585**.

FEMA also provides grants to renters for a variety of serious disaster-related losses, including:

- Replacement or repair of necessary personal property lost or damaged in the disaster, such as furnishings or appliances;
- Replacement or repair of tools and equipment required by students or the self-employed for their work;
- Replacement or repair of vehicles damaged by the disaster;
- Moving and storage expenses; and
- Disaster-related medical and dental expenses.

If renters have personal property losses not covered by insurance or FEMA grants, they may be eligible for low-interest disaster loans administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Following a disaster, SBA loans are not only for small businesses, but also for renters, homeowners, businesses of all sizes and private, nonprofit organizations. Renters may borrow up to \$40,000 to replace personal property.

(MORE)

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Some who register with FEMA will be mailed an SBA loan application that they did not request. They should complete and return the application even if they don't want a loan. Doing so may open the door to additional FEMA grants that are possible only after an SBA loan application is submitted. These include grants for replacement of personal property, moving and storage expenses and transportation costs. No one is required to accept a loan.

To register with FEMA call **800-621-FEMA (3362)**, online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or via a web-enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov. Those with a speech disability or hearing loss who use a TTY can call 800-462-7585 directly; or 800-621-3362 if using 711 or Video Relay Service. Phone lines are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week until further notice, and multilingual assistance is available.

Additional information about SBA's low-interest disaster loans may be obtained by calling **800-659-2955**, TTY **800-877-8339** or going online to www.SBA.gov. Applicants also may apply for a disaster loan online through SBA's secure web site at disasterloan.sba.gov/ela.

Residents of 12 Vermont counties are eligible for FEMA assistance: Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham and Windsor.

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; or call 800-621-3362 if using 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS).

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.

SBA disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET or by sending an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Applications can also be downloaded from www.sba.gov or completed on-line at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

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