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To: Amy Carreth Fax: (601) 352-8314

From: Ana Marcelo FEMA Date: 11-17-02

Re: News release  
"Tips for Dis. Aps." Pages: 2 w/ cover

CC: \_\_\_\_\_

Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply

*for signature*



*Rush*

*Pls. sign + return after review. Thanks!*

**FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY**

Nov 16 02 07:09p

FEMA

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**RELEASE APPROVAL SHEET**

Date 11-17-02

Release name/topic TIPS FOR DISASTER APPLICANTS

This document has been prepared for release to the news media, congressional offices and/or the public. Please review it for program/technical accuracy (not writing style), make changes or corrections on the release and sign off below.

Please sign off:

Date:

Writer

FEMA Amended w/ changes 11-17-02

✓

PAO approval

PA approval

FCO approval

State approval

Release issued

Note PAO names -

MEMA Amy Carruth

FEMA Ana Marcelo



# DISASTER NEWS



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY -- FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEMA-DR-1443-MS-NR01  
November 18, 2002

Contacts: MEMA - Amy Bissell, 601-960-9039  
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Carruth

Marcelo

**DRAFT**

## TIPS FOR DISASTER APPLICANTS

that struck five Mississippi counties,

**COLUMBUS, MS** - If your family or business sustained losses in the recent Mississippi tornadoes, federal and state assistance may be available to help you recover. Here are some suggestions for expediting that assistance.

The five disaster-declared counties are: Clay, Lowndes, Monroe, Noxubee, and Oktibbeha.

- To receive assistance you must register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by calling the toll-free ~~number~~ number, 1-800-621-3362. This puts your request in the database and determines the assistance you are eligible to receive. The number is 1-800-462-7585 for those who are speech or hearing impaired. *TTY*
- Have your address, phone number, social security number, gross income and casualty insurance information available. *when you call.*
- Your damage will be inspected. Give FEMA a telephone number *where you can be reached,* that will reach you and see ~~that your street address is prominently displayed.~~ Arrange to be at home; missing an inspection will delay getting help. *An inspector will call for an appointment.*
- You should register even if your losses are covered by insurance. This protects your claim to assistance in the event hidden damage is discovered after you have settled with the insurance company. Damage must be disaster-related ~~and in a declared county.~~
- Your home or business structure doesn't have to be disaster damaged for you to receive assistance. Financial help is available to repair vehicles or replace job equipment damaged or lost due to the disaster. If you lost essential personal property, ~~anything from a refrigerator to a wheelchair, and were not insured for the loss, help is available.~~ *may be*
- You don't have to own real estate to receive ~~federal~~ assistance. Renters as well as property owners forced from their homes by disaster damage may apply for rental assistance to relocate temporarily while repairs are made.
- When you register you will be told if you ~~must~~ *(SBA) may have to* complete a loan application from the U.S. Small Business Administration in order to receive assistance. ~~However, you do not have to qualify for a loan to receive assistance.~~ *You must complete this*

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application, before you can be referred to other disaster assistance programs.