

# MISSISSIPPI DISASTER RECOVERY NEWS

## TIPS FOR STORM VICTIMS

Here are some tips from federal and state disaster officials to victims of the state's winter storms on ways to assure quick delivery of disaster assistance.

- No one can receive assistance unless they first register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency by calling **1-800-462-9029** toll free. The number is **(1-800-426-7585** for the speech and hearing impaired).
- Be sure your home address is clearly displayed for inspectors and that FEMA has a reliable phone number for contacting you.
- You should register if you lost anything as a result of the disaster, including furniture and essential appliances. It's not necessary to own real estate.
- Registering preserves your right to federal assistance, and you may need it for unexpected expenses even if your home was insured.
- Your home doesn't have to be damaged for you to receive help. For example, assistance is available to replace equipment essential to your work or repair a vehicle.
- Be home for the inspection and allow sufficient time to answer questions. Assistance will be delayed if you are not home. Your losses must be inspected.
- Renters forced from their homes by disaster damage may apply for rental assistance to relocate temporarily while repairs are made.
- Document losses by saving damage receipts, bills you have paid to recover and photos and videotape.

To check the status of an application for assistance or amend an application contact FEMA's information hotline at **1-800-525-0321** (**1-800-462-7585** for the speech or hearing impaired).

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