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Recovery News

TWO WEEKS LEFT TO REGISTER FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE WITH FEMA

NEPTUNE, N.J.– New Jersey residents who sustained damage from Hurricane Irene have only two more weeks to register for assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The deadline is Oct. 31, 2011.

"Two weeks may sound like plenty of time, but the 31st will be here before you know it," said FEMA's Federal Coordinating Officer William L. Vogel. "If you had damage and haven't registered yet, please do so before it's too late."

Even if an insurance settlement has not yet been reached, individuals must register before the Oct. 31 deadline or the opportunity to be considered for federal assistance may be lost. Though FEMA will not duplicate insurance benefits, expenses not covered by insurance may be eligible for federal grants after the claim has been paid.

The deadline to submit loan applications to the Small Business Administration (SBA) is also Oct. 31. Completing and returning the SBA application is an essential step in the process. If you are a homeowner or renter and SBA determines you cannot afford a loan, you may be referred for other possible assistance. Additional information is available at www.sba.gov or 800-659-2955.

To date, FEMA has approved more than $136 million in assistance to disaster survivors, while the SBA has approved nearly $44 million in disaster loans to homeowners; renters; businesses of all sizes; and, nonprofit organizations.

"We don't want to see anyone left out," said Lt. Paul Miller, State Coordinating Officer for New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM). "Registering is the only way to find out if you're eligible."

There are three ways to register – go to www.disasterassistance.gov, m.fema.gov or call FEMA toll-free, **800-621-3362 (FEMA)**. Those with access or functional needs and who use a TTY may call 800-462-7585 or use 711 or Video Relay Service to call 800-621-3362. Telephone lines are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET; multilingual operators are available.

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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.

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