



E-News Update



DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE DEADLINE THIS WEEK

The last day to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008, under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1791-DR for individuals whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted due to Hurricane Ike between Sept. 7 and Oct. 2, 2008.

DUA is available to individuals who:

- worked or were self-employed in or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment,
- can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of the disaster,
- establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income,
- do not qualify for regular unemployment benefits from any state,
- cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury as a direct result of the disaster, or
- who became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of household.

To file for DUA, call the nearest Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Tele-Center 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, or call toll-free at (800) 939-6631. Claimants may apply online at <http://www.texasworkforce.org>, but should specify that their claim is disaster-related. Claimants also can e-mail TWC at UIHelp@twc.state.tx.us.

REGISTER WITH FEMA

Texans with uninsured or underinsured losses and damages as a result of Hurricane Ike who live in the 34 designated counties can register with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or (TTY) 1-800-462-7585. They can also register online at www.fema.gov.

Under the presidential declaration, disaster assistance is available to individuals in the 34 counties of Angelina, Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Cherokee, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Smith, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Waller and Washington.

DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT SBA LOAN APPLICATION

Texans who suffered damages or losses from Hurricane Ike and received a loan application from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are urged to complete and return the application. Doing so will ensure the applicants are considered for the full range of disaster assistance that may be available to them.

Homeowners and renters who apply for an SBA loan and who are declined, as well as those who are not issued a loan application, may be referred to FEMA's Other Needs Assistance (ONA) grant program. Homeowners and renters **must** return the SBA application, if they receive one, to be considered for ONA. ONA provides reimbursements for personal property losses, vehicle repair or replacement, moving and storage fees, and other serious disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance or other sources. To view the full news release, click <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=46135>.

For more information on SBA programs, applicants may call 1-800-659-2955 or TTY 1-800-877-833.

MORE PROCUREMENT SEMINARS SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK

Is your business prepared to work with the government? Local businesses in Texas can learn how to do business with the federal government for Hurricane Ike recovery efforts at a series of workshops in the area.

FEMA's Local Business Task Force is collaborating with multiple local, state and federal partners to implement procurement education seminars. The sessions will provide information on the varying phases of the procurement process to support and further foster successful business participation in the recovery efforts.

These workshops are sponsored by the FEMA Local Business Task Force and the SBA Office of Government Contracting:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 14** – Galveston County Small Business Development Center (SBDC), 8419 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway, Texas City 9 a.m. to noon.
- **Thursday, Oct. 16** – Lamar State College Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Carl Parker Multipurpose Center, 1800 Lakeshore Drive, Port Arthur 9 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

These educational seminars will cover a wide range of topics ranging from information on the Central Contractor Registration process to how to write a strong federal proposal. For a list of upcoming dates and locations, send an email to FEMA-Industry@dhs.gov.

For a complete list of resources on how to do business with FEMA, visit <http://www.fema.gov/business/contractor.shtm>.

Hazard Mitigation Specialists at Lowe's

Teams of FEMA hazard mitigation specialists will be available on-site at Lowe's home improvement centers in the weeks ahead. They will answer questions residents may have about protecting their homes from future disaster damage.

The FEMA representatives will explain flood- and wind-resistant building techniques, and offer advice on topics such as home elevation, safe rooms, wind straps, flood insurance and other measures to make homes stronger and safer. They will also offer publications on similar topics.

A team will be at the following location from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Sunday, Oct. 13-19:

Lowe's
5002 Garth Road
Baytown, TX 77521

INELIGIBILITY LETTER NOT LAST WORD

A letter stating a person is ineligible for disaster assistance may not be the final word on an application with FEMA. If an applicant finds circumstances at the time of the initial registration have changed, he or she can appeal the initial decision. Appeals may relate to eligibility, the amount or type of help provided, late applications, requests to return money or denial of continued assistance. For details on how to file an appeal: http://www.fema.gov/assistance/process/case_review.shtm

FEMA WEB SITE TO HELP FAMILIES LOCATE RELATIVES

Have you been displaced by Hurricane Ike? Do you need to locate friends or family displaced by Ike? Want to report or search for a child missing as a result of Ike? The National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System (NEFRS) helps reunite families separated by a disaster or emergency. The Web site address is asd.fema.gov/inter/nefrs/home.htm. Registering also can be done by telephone. The toll-free search line is 1-800-588-9822. The report/search for a missing child line is 1-800-908-9570. Registering in the NEFRS is easy and takes only 10 to 15 minutes.

RESIDENT NON-CITIZENS MAY QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL AID

People who are not U.S. citizens but who are in the United States legally may be eligible for disaster aid from FEMA. Assistance can be given as long as someone in a household is entitled to it. No information will be gathered regarding the status of other household members. For example, a parent or guardian who is not eligible for assistance can still apply on behalf of a minor child who is a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien. The guardian only certifies for the child; no information will be gathered on the adult's status.

Undocumented immigrants from a household with no one eligible for federal financial assistance may still be eligible for programs run by state, local or voluntary agencies. They may also be eligible for short-term, non-cash aid, such as crisis counseling. To find out more, visit: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=45969>

FEMA'S LOCAL HIRE PROGRAM

FEMA has a Local Hire program in the state of Texas for its citizens affected by Hurricane Ike. The Local Hire Program is designed to provide employees for FEMA offices and operations as well as benefit the citizens in the communities affected by a disaster. By employing local people, FEMA invests in the community's recovery. The process supports the state by using the Texas Workforce program to collect, screen, and forward resumes that fit job postings.

A LOCAL HIRE:

- MUST live within a 50-mile radius of the job site
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be over the age of 18
- Receive a security clearance

Anyone interested in temporary employment with FEMA on DR-1791 should register at their local **Work in Texas** office and/or enter their resume into the database at www.workintexas.com.

Resumes are NOT being accepted in person, at the door or from friends and family or by fax or mail.

UPDATE YOUR FEMA CONTACT INFORMATION

Many people who contacted FEMA for assistance after Hurricane Ike struck Texas have moved since they registered. Now FEMA is trying to contact those people and finding that many of the phone numbers given by applicants are no longer current.

As temporary housing opportunities become available, FEMA needs to call applicants to inform them. Certain government checks cannot be forwarded to recipients. If the recipient moves and fails to correct the mailing address, the check will be returned.

Applicants may update their contact information anytime by calling the toll-free FEMA Helpline at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or the TTY line, 1-800-462-7585. Multilingual recovery specialists are available at the Helpline. Applicants can also update their contact information on the FEMA Web site at www.fema.gov.

QUICK REFERENCE

FEMA Registration and Helpline:	800-621-FEMA (3362)	800-462-7585 (TTY)	www.fema.gov
SBA	800-659-2955		www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance
Disaster Legal Services Hotline:	800-504-7030		
National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System			asd.fema.gov/inter/nefrls/home.htm
FEMA Private Sector Office	540-359-9078		paul.fitzgibbon@dhs.gov
FEMA Landlord Registry	866-766-6086		
FEMA Housing Portal			https://asd.fema.gov/inter/hportal/home.htm
TX Hurricane Ike web page			http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=10570

FEMA'S PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICE

The FEMA Private Sector Office serves as a liaison between the federal government response and the private sector community (businesses, large employers, and non-governmental non-profit agencies).

If you no longer wish to receive these Private Sector e-news updates, reply with the word **“REMOVE”** in the subject line. If someone forwarded you this email and you would like to be added to the distribution list, send an email with the word **“SUBSCRIBE”** in the subject line to dianna.gee@dhs.gov.