



# FEMA

## E-News Update

The E-News Update was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Private Sector division in Raleigh, N.C. It includes information on federal and state resources available to help North Carolina businesses and employees recover from Hurricane Irene. Please send questions/comments to [FEMA-DR-4019-NC-Private-Sector@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-DR-4019-NC-Private-Sector@fema.dhs.gov) or 571-455-2078.

To subscribe/un-subscribe, contact the e-mail address above.

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### FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SITUATION UPDATE:

#### North Carolina (Close of Business September 20, 2011)

- FEMA Individual and Households Program: **\$ 17.6 million**
- U.S. Small Business Administration approved loans: **\$ 2.2 million**

**Updates:** For more information, please visit: [NC Department of Crimes Control and Public Safety](#). You can also follow FEMA's storm response on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/femaregion4](http://www.twitter.com/femaregion4) and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FEMA](http://www.facebook.com/FEMA) or follow [www.facebook.com/NCEmergencyManagement](http://www.facebook.com/NCEmergencyManagement).

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### SMALL BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

No-cost assistance is available for small and mid-size business owners impacted by Hurricane Irene. The Small Business and Technology Development Center ([SBTDC](#)) representatives are available to assist business owners:

- Assess the financial impact on their business
- Reconstruct financial statements
- Evaluate options with creditors
- Develop strategies for business recovery
- Prepare SBA disaster loan applications

For more information or to find an [SBTDC office](#) near you, call the N.C. Department of Commerce Business Link at 1-800-228-8443. There is no charge for disaster counseling services.

Since 1984, the SBTDC has provided business counseling and technical assistance to over 100,000 small and mid-size businesses. The SBTDC is administered by NC State University on behalf of the University of North Carolina System and is operated in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

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## THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR A LETTER FROM FEMA

Everyone receives a letter from the FEMA after applying for disaster assistance. It explains where they are in the process, what to do next or how grant money should be spent.

If a survivor has questions about any letter from FEMA, they should call the FEMA helpline at **800-621-3362** (TTY at **800-462-7585**) or visit a [disaster recovery center](#).

Applicants should not be discouraged if they receive a letter saying they are ineligible or denied assistance. The letter provides an explanation of what steps need to be taken to change the status of their request for assistance. Applicants can take the letter to a disaster recovery center for help with the appeals process or call the FEMA helpline. [Read more](#).

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## DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Survivors in all of the 35 federally declared counties for the Individual Assistance program (see list in Summary section) who became unemployed as a direct result of Hurricane Irene may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program. Business owners affected by the storm may also qualify for benefits.

Workers or business owners meeting the following criteria may be eligible for benefits:

- Individuals who are unemployed due to the disaster and do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits
- Self-employed individuals and small business owners who lost income due to the disaster
- Individuals who were prevented from working due to an injury caused by the disaster
- Individuals who have become the major supplier of household income due to the disaster-related death or injury of the previous major supplier of household income
- Individuals who are unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster
- Individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment but were prevented by the disaster

There is no waiting week period to file for benefits. Affected workers can receive benefits dated back to the week ending Sept. 3. DUA is funded entirely by the federal government.

Individuals may contact the North Carolina Employment Security Commission by calling **866-795-8877** to apply for DUA benefits. Individuals are encouraged to file as soon as possible. The deadline for filing an initial claim for DUA is Oct. 6.

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## **FEMA SPECIALISTS OFFER REBUILDING ADVICE**

Mitigation specialists from the FEMA will be in Kitty Hawk, New Bern and Greenville to provide free rebuilding information and answer questions on how to strengthen property against future storm damage.

Advisors have suggestions and publications to help homeowners, renters and business owners protect against damaging winds, floods and fires.

FEMA mitigation advisors will be available Sept. 19 to Sept. 25 at the following locations:

- **Home Depot - 5300 N. Croatan Highway - Kitty Hawk, N.C. 27949**
- **Lowe's Home Improvement - 1400 Lowe's Blvd. - New Bern N.C. 28562**
- **Lowe's Home Improvement - 3840 E. 10th St. - Greenville, N.C. 27858**

Sunday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Monday: noon-7 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. [Read more.](#)

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## **35 COUNTIES DESIGNATED FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE**

Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Vance, Warren, Washington, Wayne and Wilson.