



FEMA

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News Release

WHEN THE INSPECTOR VISITS YOUR DAMAGED PROPERTY

SOMERSET, NJ – If your home was damaged by the severe storms and flooding of mid-March and you have registered with FEMA, then you must have your home inspected. This is a very important part of the recovery process.

This is what to expect:

A FEMA-contract inspector will contact you to arrange an appointment to inspect your home. When the inspector calls, be sure to give clear, accurate directions to the damaged property and a current phone number where you can be reached. A street address is needed. Post office boxes do not show locations. **Also, be sure you provide FEMA a current phone number where you can be reached, such as a cell phone, a hotel phone or the number of a relative. If you can't be reached, you can't be helped.**

When the inspector comes to your home, be sure to ask for identification. Inspectors are required to carry approved FEMA identification badges that include the inspector's name, photo and the name of the company under contract with FEMA.

Inspectors will ask for information to verify your name and address and registration with FEMA. They will NOT ask for a Social Security number nor ask to be paid for the inspection. The FEMA inspection is FREE, so beware of fraudulent individuals attempting to charge for an inspection.

You must be able to provide written proof of ownership, such as a tax receipt, deed, mortgage payment book, or home insurance policy with the damaged property's address. With the necessary documentation you can help speed up the inspection process.

Whether you are an owner or a renter, you must show that the damaged property was your primary residence when the disaster occurred. Inspectors will accept a valid driver's license or current utility bill (such as an electric, gas or water bill) as proof of occupancy.

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The inspection generally takes 30 - 40 minutes, during which the inspector will assess disaster-related damage for both real and personal property and may take photos of the interior and exterior of the damaged dwelling. The inspector will then enter damage-related information into a handheld computer and send that data electronically to FEMA, which speeds up the process of providing assistance.

The inspector does not determine whether a registrant is eligible for assistance, or the amount of a FEMA grant the individual may receive.

To Register for Assistance

Residents or business owners in a declared county (Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset or Union) who suffered damage to their home or business or were otherwise affected by the mid-March storm and flooding may be eligible for assistance.

To register for assistance, call FEMA's toll-free number, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY/TDD 1-800-462-7585** for the speech and hearing impaired (for relay service, call 711 or 1-800-852-7897) between 7 a.m. and 1 a.m., seven days a week. Multi-lingual operators are available to answer calls during this time, and residents may also register online anytime at www.disasterassistance.gov.

Receive up to the minute New Jersey disaster recovery information by following us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/femaregion2.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders and 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.