



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes
SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center- East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303

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Contacts: Michael Lampton
Phone: 404-331-0333

Do Not Wait For Insurance Settlement; SBA Urges Return of Applications – Deadline to Apply April 27

ATLANTA – The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding victims in eligible Georgia counties they should not wait to settle with their insurance companies before applying for disaster loan assistance. The SBA encourages victims of the February 20 severe storms and tornadoes to return their completed applications, even if they have not settled with their insurance company. Waiting to file an SBA application could cause unnecessary delays in receiving disaster assistance. The deadline to file an SBA loan application for physical damages is **April 27**.

Homeowners, renters, non-profit organizations and businesses of all sizes in the following counties are eligible to apply for physical disaster assistance: Brooks, Colquitt, Grady, Mitchell and Thomas counties in the State of Georgia; and Jefferson and Leon in the State of Florida.

“Returning a completed SBA disaster loan application is an important step in the disaster recovery process,” said Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East. “SBA does not need your insurance settlement information in order to start the application process.”

Disaster victims with insurance should not wait for a settlement before applying to the SBA. If a victim does not know how much of their loss will be covered by insurance or other sources, the SBA will consider making a loan for the total loss up to its loan limits, provided the borrower agrees to use insurance proceeds to reduce or repay their SBA loan.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses and non-profit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

For small businesses, and private non-profit organizations of all sizes, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

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Anyone may obtain applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing-impaired), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT, or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Business loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Victims may visit SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> to apply for disaster loans.

The deadline for physical loan applications is **April 27, 2009**; the deadline for economic injury applications is **November 26, 2009**.

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For more information about the SBA's Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.