



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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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to South Carolina Residents Affected By Severe Storms and Tornadoes

WASHINGTON – South Carolina residents and businesses affected by severe storms and tornadoes that occurred on April 10–11, 2009, can apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, SBA Administrator Karen G. Mills announced today.

Administrator Mills made the loans available in response to a request from Governor Mark Sanford on April 27, for a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Abbeville and Aiken counties and the adjacent counties of Anderson, Barnwell, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Orangeburg and Saluda in South Carolina; and Burke, Elbert and Richmond counties in Georgia.

“The SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes with federal disaster loans,” said Mills. “Getting our businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

“Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property,” said Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center in Atlanta. SBA’s customer service representatives will be on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to issue loan applications, answer questions about the SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help individuals complete their applications.

The Centers will be located in the following communities and will open as indicated:

Abbeville County

Abbeville Emergency Management Division
Emergency Operations Center
394 Highway 28 By-Pass
Abbeville, South Carolina 29620

Opening: Tuesday, May 5, at 8 a.m.
Tuesday, May 5 – Friday, May 8, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunday, May 10, **Closed**
Monday, May 11– Thursday, May 14, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Closing: Thursday, May 14, at the close of business

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Aiken County

Beech Island Fire Department

1565 Sandbar Ferry Road

Beech Island, South Carolina 29842

Opening: Tuesday, May 5, at 8 a.m.
Tuesday, May 5 – Friday, May 8, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunday, May 10, **Closed**
Monday, May 11 – Thursday, May 14, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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Elliott Cooper, SBA's South Carolina District Director, added, "Low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses and non-profit organizations of all sizes whose property was damaged or destroyed by the severe storms and tornadoes."

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. The SBA also provides mitigation funds to disaster victims based on 20 percent of the verified physical damage. These funds are designed to help borrowers pay for protective measures to minimize damages of the same kind in the future.

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

Interest rates are as low as 2.187 percent for homeowners and renters, and 4 percent for businesses, with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit the Centers in person may obtain information and loan 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. to 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 also be downloaded from the SBA website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Completed applications should be returned to the Centers or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX. 76155.

Victims may apply for disaster loans from SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **June 29, 2009**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **January 29, 2010**.

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