

Disaster Recovery Center Opens for Tornado Survivors in Lauderdale County

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Hattiesburg, Miss.-- A disaster recovery center is open in Lauderdale County to provide assistance to survivors of the recent severe storms and tornadoes. The center will be open for four days.

Recovery centers are run jointly by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency; representatives from MEMA, FEMA, U.S. Small Business Administration, and American Red Cross are set up in the center to explain available assistance programs and help connect survivors with appropriate resources to assist in their recovery.

The center is located at:

Greater Outreach Missionary Baptist Church
9745 Hwy. 39 N
Meridian, MS 39305
The center in Lauderdale County will be open until 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 30; from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 31, and Wednesday, Feb. 1; and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2.

If possible, survivors with disaster-related losses are encouraged to register for assistance before going to a disaster recovery center by calling FEMA's helpline at **800-621-3362** or **(TTY) 800-462-7585**. Helpline hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time, seven days a week. Survivors can also register online at DisasterAssistance.gov.

Survivors can visit any open disaster recovery centers. For other disaster recovery center locations download the FEMA App, call the helpline or visit fema.gov/DRC. Many of the same services at disaster recovery centers are also available by calling the FEMA helpline.

Homeowners, renters and business owners can apply for low-interest disaster loans at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. SBA representatives are available at the disaster recovery centers to answer questions and help survivors complete their



disaster loan applications. Questions can also be answered by calling the SBA disaster customer service center at **800-659-2955** or **(TTY) 800-877-8339** for the deaf or hard of hearing, or by visiting sba.gov/disaster.

For more information on Mississippi's tornado recovery, go to fema.gov/disaster/4295 or visit the MEMA site at msema.org. Follow MEMA on Facebook facebook.com/msemaorg and on Twitter @msema.

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

All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency, economic status, or retaliation. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, call 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585(TTY/TDD).

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.



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