

March 21, 2020  
FEMA-4476-DR NR 011  
State News Desk: (615) 741-0430  
FEMA News Desk: (843) 642-2441

# News Release

## **FEMA Suspends Field Operations in Tennessee But Survivor Assistance Continues**

**Nashville** - TEMA and FEMA are jointly announcing today they will reduce the in-person recovery activities their personnel are conducting in three counties in conformity of current, recommended health precautions for COVID-19.

In coordination with the State of Tennessee, FEMA is suspending the operation of Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams, Disaster Recovery Centers and Mobile Registration and Intake Centers in Davidson, Putnam and Wilson counties effective at 6:00 pm on Sunday, March 22, 2020.

Tornado and storm survivors in Davidson, Putnam, and Wilson counties will still be able to apply for federal assistance without going to a recovery center and will have multiple ways to interact with FEMA to complete applications and have their questions answered.

“Health and safety are FEMA’s highest priorities – for survivors and for FEMA personnel working on recovery,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Myra Shird. “We know that survivors need our help and we intend to continue providing assistance even as we take precautions to ensure health and safety in our operations.”

FEMA is just a phone call or mouse click away. Survivors can register, check the status of their applications and get answers to questions about disaster assistance in several ways:

- Visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov)
- Download the FEMA App
- Call **800-621-3362 (800-462-7585 TTY)**. Multilingual operators are available. The toll-free numbers are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. local time, seven days a week.

“We have made great progress in getting assistance directly to Tennesseans,” TEMA Director Patrick Sheehan said. “FEMA has been in the State throughout this emergency and will continue to help survivors even with this change in operations.”

The deadline to apply for disaster assistance is **May 4, 2020**.

###

*FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.*

*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.*

*FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for 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.*

*The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For more information, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster). Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call (800) 877-8339.*