



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY



MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
400 Worcester Road

Framingham, MA 01702-5399

Tel: 508-820-2000 Fax: 508-820-2030

Website: www.mass.gov/mema

Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Don R. Boyce
Director

Timothy P. Murray
Lieutenant Governor

Mary Elizabeth Heffernan
Secretary

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Peter Judge, MEMA PIO
(508) 820-2002

GOVERNOR PATRICK ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FLOOD AID ON ITS WAY
Financial Assistance Available for Individuals & Businesses in 7 Counties

BOSTON, MA – Governor Deval Patrick announced this evening that federal aid will become available to Massachusetts individuals and businesses hardest hit by the most recent flooding events. The assistance was authorized under a Major Federal Disaster Declaration issued by President Barack Obama after a review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s analysis of Governor Patrick’s request for federal assistance for those most impacted by the flooding beginning on March 12, 2010 and continuing. The Massachusetts congressional delegation advocated strongly in support of the request.

The President’s action makes Individual Assistance (IA) Programs available to affected homeowners, renters and businesses in a 7 county area. The counties include Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth Counties. Given this week’s storm and anticipated flooding, the Governor will expand his request to cover any damage resulting from the ongoing weather event.

“I am thankful to President Obama for recognizing the havoc the storm and flooding has inflicted on communities across the Commonwealth,” said Governor Patrick. “Now that our request for a disaster declaration has been granted, critical federal aid can reach the individuals, families and businesses that need it the most. People dealing with effects of this week’s storm can rest assured we stand ready to make a request for additional assistance so they can get the help we anticipate they’ll need.”

The available Individual Assistance Programs administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) include Individuals and Households Programs (IHP), Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Legal Assistance, Tax Relief, and Small Business Administration Disaster Loans. This assistance will assist individuals and businesses in their recovery from the impacts of flooding.

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Individuals and business owners, who sustained losses in the designated counties, can initiate the application for assistance process by calling the FEMA Teleregistration numbers: **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **1-800-462-7585 (TTY)** for the hearing and speech impaired or registering on-line at www.fema.gov. The toll-free Teleregistration numbers will operate Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 1:00am, on weekends - Saturday and Sunday from 7:00am to 10:00pm, until further notice.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and man made.

Those in the counties designated for assistance to affected residents and business owners can begin the disaster application process by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired**. The toll-free telephone numbers are available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. EDT. Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves (name, permanent address, phone number), insurance coverage and any other information to help substantiate losses.

For additional information about MEMA and Winter & Flooding Preparedness, go to www.mass.gov/mema. Follow MEMA updates on Facebook and Twitter.

Region I
P.O. Box 116
365 East Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876
Tel: 978-328-1500 Fax: 978-851-8218

Region II
P.O. Box 54
12-I Rear Administration Road
Bridgewater, MA 02324-0054
Tel: 508-697-3600 Fax: 508-697-8869

Region III / IV
1002 Suffield Street
Agawam, MA 01001
Tel: 413-821-1500
Fax: 413-821-1599