



FEMA

Disaster News

February 19, 2008

FEMA-1740-DR-IN-PR012

Contact:

IDHS Pam Bright 317-232-6632

John Erickson 317-234-4214

FEMA News Desk 765-771-4643

SBA Michael Lampton 404-331-0333

SBA LOANS HELP HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS GET ‘BACK IN BUSINESS’

LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Don't let the word "business" in the name U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) fool you. For homeowners and renters, the SBA is your primary source of federal funds for long-term recovery.

Low-interest SBA disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to qualified homeowners to repair or replace damaged real estate. In addition, up to \$40,000 may be available to homeowners and renters to repair or replace damaged personal property. (In both cases, the SBA disaster loans can be made only for damages not covered by insurance.)

After you register for federal assistance with FEMA, if you receive a letter in the mail with an SBA return address, be sure to open it, and complete the forms inside. It's a critical step in the recovery process. Already, more than 961 Indiana residents have been mailed SBA disaster loan applications, but only 135 have been returned. **Returning the loan application is an essential part of the disaster recovery process even for individuals who do not want a loan.**

If you do not qualify for a loan, you may be considered for other forms of assistance. You may qualify for the FEMA “Other Needs Assistance” program that is designed to help meet serious, disaster-related needs such as temporary housing assistance, grants for public transportation expenses and medical and dental expenses. However, you must complete and return the SBA loan application. ***If the loan application is not returned, you may not be considered for further FEMA assistance.***

SBA officials encourage all applicants to bring loan applications to the nearest Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) for help in filling it out. The SBA will send it overnight free of charge to its national processing center.

-more-

Page 2 - SBA LOANS HELP HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS GET “BACK IN BUSINESS”

When it comes to businesses of all sizes, large and small, and for non-profits as well, the SBA makes two types of direct disaster loans:

- Any disaster-damaged business in a declared county can apply for a loan of up to \$1.5 million to help replace damaged property or restore it to its pre-disaster condition.
- Even if a business has not sustained physical damage, economic injury disaster loans for small businesses are available to provide necessary working capital until normal operations resume after a disaster. Those loans are used to help pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster.

The first step toward obtaining recovery assistance is to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

- Call **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the hearing- or speech-impaired or register online at www.fema.gov.

Help with applications and information about a wide range of disaster recovery programs is available at any DRC. Representatives from SBA and FEMA are available from Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. until February 22. Thereafter the hours will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

###

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.