

Obtaining Assistance

Assistance for you and your family

- ◆ Your county has an emergency management plan and is prepared to provide shelter, food, and water to disaster victims. Radio and television stations will have information on shelter locations and distribution sites for food and water.
- ◆ If your property has been damaged, report it to your insurance company and file a claim as soon as possible. Be sure the company knows how to reach you if you move to a different location.
- ◆ If your county is declared a disaster area, you may be eligible for monetary help from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).
- ◆ If you are unable to return to work, you may qualify for unemployment insurance and/or disaster unemployment assistance, but first you must apply for regular unemployment benefits. Call 1-800-939-6631 or visit www.twc.state.tx.us/ui/uiclaim.html.
- ◆ If you have suffered extensive damage and a tax filing deadline is near, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) may postpone the deadline. For more information, call the IRS at 800-829-1040.

Assistance for your farm or ranch

- ◆ In counties declared disaster areas, farmers and ranchers may be eligible for special assistance programs. Begin by contacting the local office of the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The FSA provides low-interest loans to help agricultural producers recover from disasters. The FSA also has a cost-share program to help repair damage caused by natural disasters.

- ◆ The Texas Department of Agriculture's Linked Deposit Program helps producers who lose livestock or other agricultural commodities. Contact TDA at 512-936-0273.
- ◆ Farmers and ranchers should also apply for FEMA assistance to cover damages to their homes or personal property.

Assistance for your small business

- ◆ If you are self-employed or own a small business, contact the Small Business Association (SBA) at 800-659-2955 or a local SBA disaster recovery center. The SBA makes physical disaster loans to help repair property and replace inventory and loans to help with financial losses. Apply for assistance from the SBA as soon as possible. To apply, you will need federal income tax information, a short history of the business, personal financial statements, and business financial statements.
- ◆ If you have business insurance, file a claim with your company as soon as possible. Whether you have insurance or not, file a claim with the SBA first so you don't miss the filing deadline.
- ◆ Have your business structure inspected by a structural engineer and get a detailed report of the damage. Also make a comprehensive inventory of losses.
- ◆ Self-employed persons are eligible for disaster unemployment assistance through the Texas Workforce Commission. Call 800-939-6631 or visit www.twc.state.tx.us/ui/uiclaim.html.

