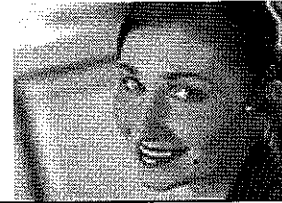




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## Current Happenings

**Updated on Wednesday 9/14/11 at 7:40 am**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that President Barack Obama has declared Pennsylvania a disaster area, which will allow federal aid to be provided to flood victims as a result of Tropical Storm Lee. The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in the counties of Adams, Bradford, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Union, Wyoming, and York.

- Affected residents and business owners can begin the disaster application process by registering online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362.
- The toll-free telephone numbers are available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) Monday through Sunday until further notice. 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.

This link to FEMA will explain what help will be available.

## DISASTER RELIEF CENTERS

## **LUZERNE COUNTY**

**Beginning Wednesday at 1 p.m., a disaster relief center will set up shop at Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke to help residents who have been impacted by recent flooding.**

**Representatives from multiple state and federal agencies will be on hand to assist residents with applying for disaster recovery aid. All residents visiting the center are asked to bring photos and other documentation of damage with them.**

**If your organization is running a flood relief program, please send us a fax to 570-829-5055 or email to [helpline@fsawv.org](mailto:helpline@fsawv.org). This information will be available on our [You Can Help Page](#).**

## **OPEN SHELTERS**

**Luzerne County Community College, [directions](#)**

**Tunkhannock Area High School, [directions](#)**

**Athens Township Fire Dept, [directions](#)**

**Montrose Bible Conference, [directions](#)**

**To find if someone is ok and possibly in a shelter check [safe & well web site](#).**

**PennDot Road Closure Information [District 4](#) (Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike Susquehanna, Wayne & Wyoming Counties), and [District 3](#) (Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga & Union Counties)**

**FEMA provides [guidelines for what to do after a flood](#) and the American Red Cross provides a [information on what to do to help recover from a disaster](#). FEMA also provides information on [recovering from disasters](#).**

## **Distribution of cleaning kits & supplies:**

### **LUZERNE COUNTY**

**Wyoming Valley Red Cross, 256 S Sherman St, Wilkes-Barre, 9am to 6pm**

### **WYOMING COUNTY**

**Tunkhannock, Wyoming County Red Cross, Rt 6, 9am to 6pm.**



# FEMA

## Federal Aid Programs For Pennsylvania Disaster Recovery

Release Date: September 12, 2011

Release Number: HQ-11-193Factsheet

» More Information on Pennsylvania Tropical Storm Lee

» En Español

Following is a summary of key federal disaster aid programs that can be made available *as needed and warranted* under President Obama's major disaster declaration issued for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### **Assistance for Affected Individuals and Families Can Include *as Required*:**

- Rental payments for temporary housing for those whose homes are unlivable. Initial assistance may be provided for two months for homeowners and renters. Assistance may be extended if requested after the initial period based on a review of individual applicant requirements. *(Source: FEMA funded and administered.)*
- Grants for home repairs and replacement of essential household items not covered by insurance to make damaged dwellings safe, sanitary and functional. *(Source: FEMA funded and administered.)*
- Grants to replace personal property and help meet medical, dental, funeral, transportation and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other federal, state and charitable aid programs. *(Source: FEMA funded at 75 percent of total eligible costs; 25 percent funded by the state.)*
- Unemployment payments up to 26 weeks from the date of the disaster declaration for workers who temporarily lost jobs because of the disaster and who do not qualify for state benefits, such as self-employed individuals. *(Source: FEMA funded; state administered.)*
- Low-interest loans to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance. Loans available up to \$200,000 for primary residence; \$40,000 for personal property, including renter losses. Loans available up to \$2 million for business property losses not fully compensated by insurance. *(Source: U.S. Small Business Administration.)*
- Loans up to \$2 million for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes that have suffered disaster-related cash flow problems and need funds for working capital to recover from the disaster's adverse economic impact. This loan in combination with a property loss loan cannot exceed a total of \$2 million. *(Source: U.S. Small Business Administration.)*
- Loans up to \$500,000 for farmers, ranchers and aquaculture operators to cover production and property losses, excluding primary residence. *(Source: Farm Service Agency, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.)*
- Other relief programs: Crisis counseling for those traumatized by the disaster; income tax assistance for filing casualty losses; advisory assistance for legal, veterans benefits and social

security matters.

### **Assistance for the Commonwealth and Affected Tribal and Local Governments Can Include:**

- Payment of not more than 75 percent of the approved costs for hazard mitigation projects undertaken by state and local governments to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural or technological disasters. (*Source of funding: FEMA funded, state administered.*)

### **How to Apply for Assistance:**

- 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](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)** or by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**. **Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362.**
- The toll-free telephone numbers are available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) Monday through Sunday until further notice. 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.
- Application procedures for local governments will be explained at a series of applicant briefings with locations to be announced in the affected area by Commonwealth recovery officials. Approved mitigation projects are paid through the state from funding provided by FEMA.

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.

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