

# Mississippi Tornado Recovery

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April 10, 2023

## Key Messages

- FEMA has approved more than \$5 million in assistance to households as more applications are being processed daily.
- Survivors who live or work in Carroll, Humphreys, Monroe, Montgomery, Panola or Sharkey counties may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance if they can't work because of the March 24-25 severe storms and tornadoes,
  - Disaster Unemployment Assistance is federally funded and administered by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.
- Homeowners and renters in Carroll, Humphreys, Monroe, Montgomery, Panola and Sharkey counties who have losses resulting from the March 24-25 storms and tornadoes can apply for FEMA Individual Assistance, which may include temporary housing assistance, home repairs and certain other uninsured disaster-related needs.
- To apply, survivors can call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362, visit a nearby Disaster Recovery Center, go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/assistance) or download the [FEMA App](#) to apply.
- For an accessible video on how to apply for assistance go to [youtube.com/watch?v=WZGpWI2RCNw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZGpWI2RCNw).

## Disaster Recovery Centers

Two new Disaster Recovery Centers are open in Panola and Montgomery. Hours of operation for all centers are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday – Saturday and 1 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays at the following locations:

- **Carroll County:** J.Z. George High School, 900 George St., North Carrollton, MS 38947
- **Humphreys County:** Humphreys County Library, 105 Hayden St., Belzoni, MS 39038
- **Monroe County:** Monroe County Government Complex, 1619 Highway 25, Amory, MS 38821
- **Montgomery County:** Montgomery County Coliseum, 200 Recreation Dr., Winona, MS 38967
- **Panola County:** Mississippi State University Extension Center, 245 Eureka St. Batesville, MS 38606
- **Sharkey County:** Heritage Manor, 431 West Race St., Rolling Fork, MS 39159



**FEMA**

## Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers are in Monroe County

*The dates and locations are:*

### **Wren Fire Department, 32659 Hwy 45N, Aberdeen, MS 39730**

- April 10 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- April 11 and 12 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- April 16 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- April 17-19 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### **Rose of Sharon, 520 111<sup>th</sup> St. Amory, MS 38821**

- April 13 from Noon to 7 p.m.
- April 14 and 15 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- April 20 from Noon to 7 p.m.
- April 21 and 22 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- April 23 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

## Clean and Sanitize Assistance Available

FEMA may be able to provide up to \$300 in one-time financial assistance to help eligible homeowners and renters with cleanup at homes that sustained damage but are safe to occupy. Survivors are encouraged to keep receipts if they have already cleaned up their house.

## Free Disaster Legal Assistance Available

Low-income Mississippi tornado survivors that can't afford an attorney may receive free legal assistance for their disaster-related needs. Survivors can call 877-691-6185 toll free 24-hours a day. If prompted to leave a message, a specialist will call back as soon as possible. Callers should identify what storm-related issue they need legal assistance with and the county where their storm-damaged property is located.

## Tax Filing Deadline Extension

The Internal Revenue Service has extended the tax filing deadline for disaster survivors to [July 31, 2023](#).

## No Charge for Services

FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) never charge for application, home inspections, grants, disaster-loan applications, or anything else.

## Beware of Fraud

If you believe you or a loved one are the victim of a scam or identity theft, report it immediately to your local law enforcement authorities. If you suspect fraudulent activity involving FEMA, you can report it to the FEMA Fraud Branch at: [StopFEMAFraud@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:StopFEMAFraud@fema.dhs.gov). If someone is using your personal information to open new accounts, make a purchase or get a tax refund, report it at [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov).

Home inspectors **will not** be wearing FEMA attire but will always carry FEMA contractor photo ID badges and never charge for services.

Con artists and criminals may try to obtain money or steal personal information through fraud or identity theft after a disaster. In some cases, thieves try to apply for FEMA assistance using names, addresses and Social Security numbers they have stolen from survivors. If a FEMA inspector comes to your home and you did not submit a FEMA application, your information may have been used without your knowledge to create a FEMA application. If so, please inform the inspector that you did not apply for FEMA assistance so they can submit a request to stop further processing of the application.

## FEMA Public Assistance (PA)

Carroll, Humphreys, Monroe, Montgomery, Panola and Sharkey counties are eligible for Public Assistance Category A (debris removal), Category B (emergency protective services) and Categories C – G (permanent repairs to roads and bridges, water control facilities, public buildings, utilities and parks and recreational facilities).

For guidance on debris removal processes, residents should contact local government officials.

## U.S. Small Business Administration

Long-term, low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are available to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at [disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/](https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/). Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955.

## Mortgage Insurance Available

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is [making mortgage insurance available](#) for survivors rebuilding homes that were damaged.