



**FEMA**

# Disaster News

December 15, 2007

DR-1734-WA-004

**Joint Information Center Media Contact:**

FEMA News Desk: 360-486-5745

State News Desk 253-912-4950

SBA News Desk 916-764-9917

## **MASON, PACIFIC AND THURSTON COUNTIES DESIGNATED FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**Lacey, Wash.**—The residents of Mason, Pacific and Thurston counties have been added to those designated for federal disaster assistance, federal and state officials announced today. Residents and small business owners in these counties who suffered property damages or losses from the severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides that began Dec. 1, can now register for federal and state disaster assistance, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

There are now five counties approved for federal individual assistance: Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston.

A toll-free application telephone number and on-line registration are now operational. Officials encourage those affected by the disaster to apply for assistance immediately by going online to [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or by calling FEMA's toll-free number, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time Monday through Sunday until further notice. Those with speech or hearing impairments may call TTY 1-800-462-7585.

A wide range assistance is now available to residents including grants for temporary disaster housing, other serious disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or assistance programs.

When applying for help, people should be sure to have the following information available:

- Current phone number;
- Both the current address and the address of the damaged property;
- Social Security number, if available;
- General financial information;
- Bank account information for direct deposit.

FEMA disaster assistance covers basic needs only and will not normally compensate applicants for all losses. Government assistance will help pay for basic needs not covered under insurance but will not duplicate insurance or other assistance. Some disaster aid does not have to be paid back, while other help may come in the form of loans.

*-more-*

**Mason, Pacific, Thurston...add ons p. 2**

Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration also will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

*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.*

*SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.*

###

Editors: for more information on the Washington disaster recovery, visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or [www.wadisasternews.com](http://www.wadisasternews.com).