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What to Expect After Applying for Individual Assistance from FEMA

LINN COUNTY, IA – August 21, 2020 – Linn County residents affected by the storm may be eligible for individual assistance from FEMA.

Assistance provided by FEMA for homeowners can include grants for repairs to make their primary home habitable. Rental assistance is available to pay for temporary housing for homeowners and renters. FEMA assistance can also help with other disaster-related needs like replacing essential household items, medical and dental expenses.

First, if they haven't done so, residents should contact their insurance company and file a claim for the disaster-caused damage suffered. There is no need to wait for FEMA to start cleaning up, but be sure to take photographs or video of the damage and keep all receipts for repair work.

Residents with losses not covered by insurance should contact FEMA by either going online to DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling the helpline at 800-621-3362. TTY users can call 800-462-7585.

Information that will be required when registering includes:

- Address of the damaged primary dwelling where the damage occurred
- Current mailing address
- Current telephone number
- Social Security number
- Insurance information
- Total household annual income
- Routing and account number for checking or savings account so FEMA may directly transfer disaster assistance funds
- A description of disaster-caused damage and losses

Home Inspections and COVID-19

If you reported that you cannot or may not be able to safely live in your home, it may be necessary for FEMA to perform an inspection of the damaged dwelling.

Due to the COVID-19 nationwide emergency and the need to protect the safety and health of all Americans, some FEMA inspections may be conducted remotely.

For remote inspections, FEMA inspectors will contact applicants by phone to answer questions about the type and extent of damage sustained. Remote inspections provide a new way of evaluating damage; it is comparable to traditional, in-person inspections and expedites the delivery of recovery assistance to survivors based on their eligibility.

Survivors with minimal damage who can live in their homes will not automatically be scheduled for a home inspection when applying for FEMA assistance. Instead, they will receive a letter from FEMA explaining that they may call the FEMA Helpline to request an inspection if they find significant disaster-caused damage to their home after they have applied.

If you have any questions, you can always contact the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. For TTY call 800-462-7585. If you use 711 or Video Relay Service please call 800-621-3362.