News Release

FEMA Assists All Survivors, Including People with Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Indiana's Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and FEMA are committed to ensuring disaster recovery resources and assistance are available for everyone, including people with disabilities or others with access and functional needs.

"The emergency management community includes the whole community in all aspects of disaster preparedness and recovery response," said Erin Rowe, director of Response and Recovery for the State of Indiana.

FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer David Samaniego agreed. "FEMA is continuing its work to break down barriers that prevent all disaster survivors from participating equally in disaster recovery," he said.

FEMA will assist anyone who needs help registering. Let FEMA know if you have any accommodation needs by calling 800-621-3362, for voice, 711 or VRS; TTY 1-800-462-7585. Helpline numbers are open from **7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET (6 a.m. to 9 p.m. CT), seven days a week.** Operators are multilingual.

Twenty percent of the general population have some form of physical, mental health, sensory, intellectual or cognitive disability. Disasters are traumatic for everyone, including people with disabilities, according to Benita Dallas, FEMA's disability integration advisor.

"A disaster can take away the key component that enables a person with a disability or others with access and functional needs to live independently or to communicate with others," she said. "For example, a lost wheelchair, walker or other medical device means lost mobility."

Register with FEMA before the **July 5, 2018 deadline by**:
- Going online at DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Calling 800-621-3362, for voice, 711 or VRS; TTY 1-800-462-7585.
- Or downloading the FEMA app for smartphones.

Relay Indiana has the following access phone numbers:

711 or 800-743-3333 …TTY/VOICE	877-743-8231 …….Speech-to-Speech
800-743-5207……..…..VCO	855-260-4391……..Deaf Blind
855-892-7429…………HCO	877-243-2823……..To Call CapTel Users
800-743-4869 ………...Spanish	866-217-3362 …… CapTel Users (Spanish)

For more information on Indiana's recovery, visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4363 or the @FEMARegion5 Twitter account.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after a disaster.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For more information, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling 800-659-2955 (Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call 800-877-8339), emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's Web site at sba.gov/disaster.

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