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News Release

Meriwether County Disaster Recovery Center to Open

ATLANTA – A FEMA disaster recovery center will open Tuesday, Jan.31 in Meriwether County to provide one-on-one assistance to people directly affected by the Jan. 12 severe storms, straight line winds and tornadoes.

Recovery specialists from FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration will provide information on available services, explain assistance programs and help survivors complete or check the status of their applications.

The disaster recovery center location is:

West Georgia Technical College 17529 Roosevelt Hwy. Greenville, GA 30222

Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT – 7 days a week.

People directly affected by the severe storms may visit the recovery center, apply with FEMA online at <u>DisasterAssistance.gov</u> or by calling **800-621-3362**.

For needs directly related to the Jan.12 weather systems, FEMA may be able to provide Individual Assistance grant money that does not have to be repaid for:

- Rental Assistance if you need to relocate because of storm-related damage
- Personal Property that was damaged or destroyed by these weather events
- Lodging Reimbursement if you had to stay in a hotel temporarily
- Basic Home Repairs for homeowners whose primary residence was damaged by these weather events
- Other Serious Needs caused by the recent storms.

In addition to the assistance listed, please note the following:

- Only one application per household
- FEMA does not pay for lost or spoiled food

By law, FEMA is not allowed to duplicate insurance payments or assistance provided by other sources.

As a result of registering with FEMA, you may be referred to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for a disaster loan. SBA offers low-interest disaster loans to help businesses, homeowners and renters recover from declared disasters. Submitting a low-interest loan application is an important step in the recovery process. There is no obligation to take the loan, if offered. Residents who are not approved may be referred for additional grant consideration.

Additional disaster recovery centers are expected to be announced soon.

For information on Georgia's disaster recovery visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4685. Follow us on Twitter at Twitter.com/FEMAregion4.

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

All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment) sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, limited English proficiency or economic status. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, you can call the Civil Rights Resource line at 833-285-7448.