



FEMA

Media Advisory

August 20, 2006
FEMA-1658-DR-TX-NR005
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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE APPLICANT BRIEFINGS SCHEDULED IN EL PASO COUNTY

EL PASO, TEXAS -- Officials of the Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have scheduled briefings for local and county officials and representatives of qualified private non-profit agencies to explain how to apply for disaster assistance made available under President Bush's disaster declaration on August 15, 2006.

An applicants' briefing for El Paso County will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 21 in the Road and Bridge Conference Room on the fourth floor of the El Paso County Courthouse.

A briefing for the City of El Paso will be held at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday August 22 in the City Council chambers on the second floor of City Hall in El Paso.

"These briefings have been arranged to explain the application process, administrative and funding requirements and infrastructure program eligibility criteria," explained Frank Cantu, State Coordinating Officer.

Through the public assistance program, FEMA reimburses state agencies, local governments, public utilities and eligible private non-profit organizations for 75 percent of the total eligible costs resulting from the recent floods. Assistance categories include debris removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent restoration of public infrastructure, such as roads and bridges.

State and federal officials will be available to the media for comment after the briefings.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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