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News Release

State/FEMA Disaster Recovery Center Will Open in Putnam County

NASHVILLE – The State of Tennessee and FEMA will open a disaster recovery center in Cookeville at 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 11.

Disaster recovery centers offer in-person support to individuals and businesses affected by the March 3 severe storms and tornadoes. Recovery specialists from FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the state and other interests will be at the centers to talk about available assistance and provide referrals to help with recovery.

Center location:

Hyder-Burks Agriculture Pavilion
2390 Gainesboro Grade
Cookeville, TN 38501

Hours: Sunday – Wednesday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursday – 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday – Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. until further notice

SBA disaster assistance employees are committed to helping businesses and residents rebuild as quickly as possible. They are available to answer questions about SBA's low-interest disaster loan program and help business owners and residents apply to the SBA.

The centers are accessible to people with disabilities. Centers have assistive technology equipment for survivors with vision loss. Video Remote Interpreting is available by request. The centers also have accessible parking, ramps and restrooms.

Disaster survivors with uninsured or underinsured losses can apply for FEMA assistance by:

- Visiting DisasterAssistance.gov;
- Downloading the FEMA App; or by
- Calling **800-621-3362 (800-462-7585 TTY)** (Multilingual operators are available). The toll-free numbers are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time, seven days a week.

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

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 loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

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 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 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, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/disaster. Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call (800) 877-8339.