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DR 4420-NE Severe Winter Storm, Straight-line Winds, And Flooding
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Platte County Disaster Recovery Center Closes Today

FEMA UPDATE

First Steps to Recovery

Take the first step toward getting federal assistance. Don't miss out! Once you register with FEMA, you may be eligible for a federal grant to help with your recovery.

If you are a homeowner or renter with disaster-related damage in the 27 designated counties and the Santee Sioux Nation, register now before it's too late. **The registration deadline is May 20.**

- **Call your insurance agent** to see if there is coverage for your losses under a traditional homeowner's or renter's policy, or under a flood insurance policy.
- **Document your damage.**
 - Take photos or video.
 - Make lists of damaged items.
 - Keep receipts for repairs

Although **FEMA assistance cannot make you whole**, it may help your recovery by providing grants for basic repairs to make your home safe, accessible and secure. FEMA assistance may also provide grants for a temporary place for you and your family to stay while you build your recovery plan.

How to apply:

- By phone, call FEMA's toll-free registration line at **800-621-3362 or (TTY) 800-462-7585**; or use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS). Telephone registration is available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Central Daylight Time seven days a week.
- Online, visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov.
- On a smart phone, download the **FEMA app** and click on "disaster resources," then "apply for assistance online."
- Visit a **Disaster Recovery Center** and speak to a FEMA specialist one-on-one.

- Applicants for disaster assistance should have the following information on hand:
 - Social Security number
 - Address of the damaged primary residence
 - Description of the damage
 - Information about insurance coverage
 - A current contact telephone number
 - An address where they can receive mail
 - Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds

Understanding Your FEMA Letter

If you applied for assistance from FEMA, you will receive a letter in the mail or via email that explains the status of your application and how to respond. It is important to read the letter carefully. Your letter will include the amount of any assistance FEMA may provide and information on the appropriate use of disaster assistance funds.

You may need to submit additional information for FEMA to continue to process your application.

If you have questions about the letter, you may go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov); call the disaster assistance helpline at **800-621-3362** or **800-462-7585** (TTY); or visit a disaster recovery center. To find center locations and hours, go online to [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.FEMA.gov/DRC) or download the [FEMA mobile app](#).

If you disagree with FEMA's decision, or the amount of assistance, you may submit an appeal within 60 days of receiving your determination letter from FEMA along with any documents needed to support your claim, such as a contractor's estimate for home repairs. Appeal letters and supporting documents may be submitted to FEMA by fax or mail, in person at a Disaster Recovery Center, or online if you have a FEMA online account. To set up a FEMA online account, visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov, click on "Check Status" and follow the directions.

You must file your appeal in writing to FEMA. In a **signed and dated letter**, you must explain the reason(s) for your appeal. Your appeal letter should also include:

Your full name

Disaster number

Address of the pre-disaster primary residence

Your current phone number and address

Your FEMA registration number on all documents

By mail: FEMA National Processing Service Center, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055. **By fax:** 800-827-8112, Attention: FEMA.

Individual & Households Program (IHP)

Nebraska homeowners, renters and business in **Antelope, Boyd, Burt, Cuming, Hall, Howard, Madison, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Saline, Stanton, Knox, Thurston, Boone, Buffalo, Custer, Richardson, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Dodge, Douglas, Nemaha, Sarpy, Saunders, Washington** counties and the **Santee Sioux Nation** may apply for federal disaster assistance for uninsured and underinsured damage and losses resulting from severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding. Additional counties may be designated as damage assessments are completed.

To date **5,700** applicants have applied for FEMA Individual Assistance

FEMA Individual Assistance approved to date: **\$21,705,790**

Housing Assistance: \$19,320,956

Other Needs Assistance: \$2,384,834

FEMA Individual Assistance includes:

- **Housing Assistance**
- **Temporary Housing:** Money to rent a temporary place to stay.
- **Housing Repair:** Money for homeowners to repair damage from the disaster that is not covered by insurance. The goal is to repair the home to a safe and sanitary living or functioning condition. FEMA will not pay to return a home to its condition before the disaster. Repair and replacement items include:
 - Structural parts of a home (foundation, outside walls, roof)
 - Windows, doors, floors, walls, ceilings, cabinets
 - Septic or sewage system
 - Well or other water system
 - Heating, ventilating, air-conditioning system
 - Utilities (electrical, plumbing, gas systems)
 - Entrance and exit ways from the home, including privately owned access roads
 - Blocking, leveling and anchoring of a mobile home and reconnecting or resetting its sewer, water, electrical and fuel lines and tanks
- **Other Needs Assistance**
 - The Other Needs Assistance provision of the Individuals and Households Program provides grants for uninsured, disaster-related necessary expenses and serious needs. Assistance includes:
 - Medical and dental expenses
 - Funeral and burial costs
 - Repair, cleaning or replacement of:
 - Clothing
 - Household items (room furnishings, appliances)
 - Specialized tools or protective clothing and equipment required for your job
 - Necessary educational materials (computers, school books, supplies)

Cleanup items (wet/dry vacuum, air purifier, dehumidifier)
Fuel (fuel, chain saw, firewood)
Vehicles damaged by the disaster, or public transportation or other transportation costs
Moving and storage expenses related to the disaster (including evacuation, storage or the return of property to a home)
The cost of a National Flood Insurance Program group flood insurance policy to meet flood insurance requirements.

Long-Term Recovery Help Grows for Nebraska Storm Survivors

As the focus turns toward long-term recovery from the March severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding, survivors have many resources available from local, state and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations to assist with unmet needs.

Nebraska survivors with unmet needs may contact:

- For property clean up contact the **Crisis Clean Up Hotline: 833-556-2476**
- For all other needs of assistance call **Nebraska 211**.
- To volunteer to help, please contact **United Way of the Midlands**. [Click here](#) to view, sign up and make someone's day brighter! In state, call 2-1-1 for questions (press option 6). Or
- **Contact the Fremont Volunteer Reception Center**. Volunteer opportunities are available online at <http://signup.com/go/xynaaxZ>. The Volunteer Center is at Fremont Area United Way, 445 East 1st Street, Suite 1, Fremont. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. -5 p.m., or go online to fremontnebraskavrc@gmail.com.

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance Crews

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance Crews have completed operations in all designated counties and tribal areas.

Check Permit Requirements Before Rebuilding

It is important for Nebraskans to **check with local building authorities about local or state permits** that may be necessary before starting reconstruction. These may include building permits, floodplain development permits, permits for repair of septic systems, and others. To find out what state permits may be required, please visit the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources at dnr.nebraska.gov/floodplain for a list of local floodplain management contacts.

Housing Resources for Disaster Survivors

The State of Nebraska is leading a Housing Task Force in partnership with FEMA and other agencies to address housing shortages and unmet needs in Nebraska communities affected by flooding. A [fact sheet listing resources](#) is posted on FEMA's disaster web page: fema.gov/disaster/4420.

FEMA/STATE DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS

CUSTER COUNTY

Broken Bow United Methodist Church

1000 S. 3rd Avenue

Broken Bow, NE 68822

Open May 8-May 11

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PLATTE COUNTY

Eagles Club Post 1834

3205 12th St.

Columbus, NE 68601

Closes today, May 10 at 6 p.m.

BOYD COUNTY

American Legion Post 78

116 S. Thayer Street

Spencer, NE 68777

Open Monday-Saturday until further notice

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed Sundays

CUMING COUNTY

Beemer Village Clerk

317 N. Main Street

Beemer, NE 68718

Open May 7 - 11

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DODGE COUNTY

Fremont Learning Center

130 E. 9th Street

Fremont, NE 68025

Open Monday-Saturday until further notice

Closed Sundays

SARPY COUNTY

Twin Creek

3802 Raynor Parkway

Suite 201

Bellevue, NE 68123

Open Monday-Saturday until further notice

Closed Sundays

Visit: [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC) or [download the FEMA App](#) to locate open **disaster recovery centers** in your area.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

SBA Disaster Loans Fuel Recovery, May Open Door to More FEMA Benefits

After registering for disaster assistance with FEMA, most homeowners and renters may also be contacted by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to apply for a low-interest disaster loan. There are good reasons to apply, even if the survivor had not considered a loan.

SBA has approved **\$29.5 million** in low-interest disaster loans as of **May 9**. For homeowners and renters, SBA has approved **514** loans for **\$25,896,900** and for businesses and private nonprofits, SBA has approved **25** loans for **\$3,558,400**. For information, businesses and residents can visit [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster) call SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. TTY users may call **800-877-8339**.

FEMA Hiring Nebraskans to Work on Disaster Recovery

FEMA plans to hire Nebraskans to help with recovery efforts. Anyone interested in temporary job opportunities should go to [USAJOBS.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov) and [create a free account](#). The website is updated as new postings occur. In the search box, type "FEMA Local Hire" and put "Nebraska" in the location box.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

As of **May 9** NFIP has received **1,029** flood insurance claims in Nebraska and issued **\$4,850,576** in advance payments to policyholders. Total paid to date is **\$26,524,872**.

NFIP Increased Cost of Compliance Can Help with Rebuilding in Nebraska

If you have a policy with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and your home was damaged extensively by the severe storm, straight-line winds and flooding in Nebraska in March, you may qualify for additional coverage under your policy

You can **ask your claims adjuster or insurance agent about Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage**. This applies to homes located in a Special Flood Hazard Area, or flood zone.

- Under this coverage, you may be eligible to receive up to \$30,000 to help pay the cost of bringing your home into compliance with your community's floodplain management requirements. Your community floodplain administrator can provide information about these requirements.
- ICC coverage is in addition to the coverage for the repair of the building's actual physical damage caused by flooding.

After a flood, local officials determine whether a structure was "substantially damaged." ICC funds can help defray the costs of elevating, flood proofing, demolishing or relocating a residential structure. ICC coverage also is available on non-residential buildings, including public or government buildings such as schools, libraries and municipal structures insured under an NFIP policy.

- You must file a request for ICC within 60 days after receiving the substantial damage notification from your community.

For more information on general flood insurance questions, contact your local floodplain administrator, NFIP at **800-427-4661**, or your insurance agent. You can also email FloodSmart@dhs.gov to request information in a language other than English. Information also is available at FEMA.gov and FloodSmart.gov

FEMA Public Assistance Program

FEMA's Public Assistance grant program provides federal assistance to state and local governments and certain types of private nonprofit organizations following a presidential disaster declaration. Public Assistance (PA) can help communities quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies.

Through the program, FEMA can reimburse eligible costs for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private nonprofit organizations. The Public Assistance program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

Currently, 80 counties and 5 tribal nations are designated for FEMA Public Assistance Programs:

Counties eligible for **Categories A-B** (emergency protective measures, debris removal):

Adams, Antelope, Banner, Blaine, Boone, Box Butte, Boyd, Brown, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Cherry, Cheyenne, Clay, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dakota, Dawes, Dawson, Deuel, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Franklin, Fillmore, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Garden, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Harlan, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Kearney, Keya Paha, Kimball, Knox, Lancaster, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, Madison, Merrick, Morrill, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Phelps, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Richardson, Rock, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Scotts Bluff, Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Sioux, Stanton, Thayer, Thurston, Valley, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, York.

Tribes: Omaha Indian Reservation, Ponca (TDSA), Sac and Fox Indian Reservation, Santee Indian Reservation, and Winnebago Indian Reservation.

Counties eligible for **Categories C-G** (permanent work):

Adams, Antelope, Banner, Blaine, Boone, Box Butte, Boyd, Buffalo, Brown, Burt, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Cheyenne, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dakota, Dawes, Deuel, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Franklin, Fillmore, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Garden, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Harlan, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Keya Paha, Kimball, Knox, Lancaster, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, Madison, Merrick, Morrill, Nance, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Phelps, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Rock, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Sioux, Stanton, Thurston, Valley, Wayne, Washington, Webster, Wheeler, York.

NEMA has set a briefing schedule for Public Assistance grant candidates. The briefings are for state businesses, counties, cities, sanitary enhancement districts, public energy districts, natural assets districts and other public entities that experienced injury from the March flooding.

Debris Removal a Priority for Communities after Nebraska Flooding

NEMA, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) and FEMA are coordinating cleanup efforts in Nebraska.

As local communities coordinate their debris removal process, the NEMA, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and FEMA advise residents not to wait to clean up.

Document damage with photos or videos.

Separate debris into categories and place at the curb.

Debris should not block the roadway.

For more information, go online to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality at deq.state.ne.us/.

Assistance for Landowners, Farmers, Ranchers and Producers

The USDA says higher limits now are available for borrowers interested in USDA's farm loans.

For more information, visit USDA Farm Service Agency.

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

- To help manage cropland damaged by Nebraska's severe spring weather, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing **funds to plant cover crops** on cropland acres.
- Producers are encouraged to apply at their local USDA Service Center by May 17, 2019. After that deadline, there is a second opportunity to apply, ending June 21, 2019.
- This funding is available statewide to assist recovery work on cropland acres directly impacted by the severe weather in March. The highest priority cropland includes **land that is unable to be planted with a cash crop and/or harvested in 2019.**

Tax Relief for Nebraska Survivors

Individuals who reside or have a business in counties designated for FEMA Individual Assistance may qualify for tax relief. For instance, taxpayers with certain deadlines falling on or after March 9, 2019 and before July 31, 2019, are granted additional time to file through July 31, 2019. This includes 2018 individual income tax returns and payments normally due on April 15, 2019. It also includes the quarterly estimated income tax payments due on April 15, 2019, and June 17, 2019. Eligible taxpayers will also have until July 31, 2019 to make 2018 IRA contributions.

In addition, penalties on payroll and excise tax deposits due on or after March 9, 2019, and before March 25, 2019, will be abated as long as the deposits were made by March 25, 2019.

Information Links:

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency: nema.nebraska.gov/

Twitter: twitter.com/nematweets

Facebook: facebook.com/nema.page

YouTube: youtube.com/user/TheNEMAtube

Flickr: flickr.com/photos/nemapics/

FEMA: FEMA.gov

Facebook: facebook.com/FEMA

Twitter: twitter.com/femaregion7

National Flood Insurance Program: Floodsmart.gov

FEMA blog: fema.gov/blog

SBA Office of Disaster Assistance: sba.gov/disaster

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