

ALBANY, N. Y. – New Yorkers affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee have only 30 more days to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for possible federal disaster assistance.

It's important that those who may need to register for aid do so as soon as possible. Registrations cannot be accepted after the December 15, 2011 deadline.

"Registration keeps open the possibility of a wide range of assistance," said FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Philip E. Parr. "If your insurance coverage comes up short, or other damage appears later, you need to be registered for us to help."

Tuesday December 15, is also the deadline to complete and return an SBA low-interest disaster loan application. Remember, no one is obligated to take a loan, but completing the application is a necessary first step toward possibly receiving additional FEMA grants if you do not qualify for a loan.

To register, call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. Phone lines are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET, seven days a week until further notice. People with hearing disabilities can use the TTY number, 800-462-7585. Applicants can also register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or with any web-enabled mobile device or smartphone at m.fema.gov. Follow the link to "apply online for federal assistance."

The registration period and the deadline apply to the major federal disaster declarations signed by President Barack Obama for both Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee that enabled residents and business owners in Albany, Bronx, Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Essex, Fulton, Greene, Herkimer, Kings, Montgomery, Nassau, Oneida, Orange, Otsego, Putnam, Queens, Rensselaer, Richmond, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Suffolk, Sullivan, Tioga, Ulster, Warren, Washington and Westchester counties to register for federal recovery aid.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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