

Washington, DC-- On August 26, 2011, President Obama issued a Pre-Landfall Emergency Declaration for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to prepare for Hurricane Irene. This act authorized federal assistance, including 75% reimbursement for protective measures. This assistance is for the entire Commonwealth.

On September 3, 2011, President Obama issued a major disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, triggering the release of Federal funds to help individuals and communities recover from Tropical Storm Irene during the period of August 27-29, 2011.

[Click here to view the full FEMA News Release](#)

[Disaster Recovery Centers C](#) urrently **Applicant Briefings** and Franklin Counties

Williamstown: Developers Finance Corporation Building, 430 Main Street

Monday, September 19, 2011 @ 9:30am

Berkshire County:

Berkshire Community College, West Street, Pittsfield, MA

Pittsfield: Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield's Public Library, 1 Wendell Avenue

Tuesday, September 20, 2011 @ 9:00 am

Franklin County:

So. Deerfield Fire Station 64 Greenfield Rd, Deerfield, MA

Greenfield: Green River Elementary School, 62 Meridian Street

Tuesday, September 20, 2011 @ 1:00 pm

Hampshire County:

Hatfield Town Hall, 59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Buckland/Shelburne Falls: Hawk Trail Regional High School, 26 Ashfield Road, Shelburne Falls

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 @ 10:00 am

Hampden County:

MEMA Region III/IV, 1002 Suffield St., Agawam, MA

The centers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday with FEMA staff working for the remainder of the week. For more information, visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov

9/10/11 UPDATE:

Hampden and Hampshire Counties are eligible for Public Assistance, including direct federal assistance.

9/7/11 UPDATE:

[IRS PRESS RELEASE: Tax Relief for Victims of Tropical Storm Irene in Massachusetts](#)

Victims of Tropical Storm Irene that began on Aug. 27, 2011, in Massachusetts may qualify for tax relief from the Internal Revenue Service. [Read more here.](#)

[SBA PRESS RELEASE: Tropical Storm Irene Survivors in Massachusetts can Apply for SBA Assistance](#)

U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Karen G. Mills issued the following statement after the announcement of the Presidential disaster declaration for several counties in Massachusetts that were affected by Tropical Storm Irene that occurred from Aug. 27 - 29, 2011. [Read more here.](#) □

[HUD PRESS RELEASE: HUD Secretary Announces Disaster Assistance for Commonwealth of Massachusetts Storm Victims](#)

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan today announced HUD will speed federal disaster assistance to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and provide support to homeowners and low-income renters forced from their homes following Tropical Storm Irene. [Read more here.](#)

Details of the disaster declaration and assistance programs are as follows:

Assistance

[FEMA](#)
[HUD](#)
[IRS](#)
[MEMA](#)
[SBA](#)
[USDA](#)

Declaration Number: □ □ □ FEMA-4028-DR

Incident: Tropical Storm Irene

Incident Period: August 27-29, 2011

Individual Assistance (IA) Designated Counties: Berkshire and Franklin Counties.

Public Assistance (PA) Designated Counties: Hampden, Hampshire, Berkshire and Franklin Counties. Direct federal assistance is authorized.

Hazard Mitigation (HM) Designated Counties: All counties in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

OTHER: Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the Commonwealth and warranted by results of further damage assessments.

Individual Assistance can include temporary housing assistance for eligible applicants such as rental assistance and repair assistance. Individuals in the IA-designated counties are encouraged to register with FEMA.

How to Register

- Telephone — 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), TTY (800) 462-7585 for individuals with speech or hearing disabilities.
- Internet — Individuals may apply for disaster assistance online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov
- Smartphone — The mobile website m.fema.gov allows the public to register with FEMA and easily access disaster-related information directly on their web-enabled device.
- Through FEMA's App for android phones, which can be downloaded at market.android.com/details?id=gov.fema.mobile.android

Assistance to Individuals and Households

FACT SHEET: [Individuals and Households Program \(IHP\)](#)

The Individuals and Households Program (IHP) provides financial help or direct services to those who have necessary expenses and serious needs if they are unable to meet the needs through other means. Up to \$30,200 is available in financial help (adjusted each year), although some forms of IHP assistance have limits. Flood insurance may be required as indicated below. These forms of help are available: Housing Assistance (including Temporary Housing, Repair, Replacement, and Semi-Permanent or Permanent Housing Construction) and Other Needs Assistance (including personal property and other items). [Click here for more information.](#)

FEMA Public Assistance

FACT SHEET: [FEMA Public Assistance](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is now incorporated within the Department of Homeland Security, under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), Public Law 93-288, as amended, administers the **Public Assistance (PA)**

program. Public Assistance is oriented to public entities and can fund the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a public facility or infrastructure, which is damaged or destroyed by a disaster.

[Click here for more information.](#)

FEMA's Individuals and Households Program Guide

FEMA's [Help After a Disaster Guide](#) is mailed to FEMA applicants and provides an overview of FEMA's Individuals and Households Program. It is available in PDF and Text formats and is translated into several languages.

Helpful State Resources

MassDOT has compiled a [helpful map](#) of road closures across central and western Massachusetts.

The MA Division of Insurance has [launched a new toll-free number for consumer complaints](#) and inquiries stemming from Irene:
(888) 563-4467.