

Disaster Recovery Information You Should Know...

We know that you can never be fully prepared for a disaster, but when that time comes, we want to equip you, our MBEs, with as many resources as we can to assist with the recovery process. To that end, please find below and attached information that will be helpful in seeking financing to get back on your feet quickly. Our federal partners at the US Small Business Administration (SBA) are here to help!

Three Ways to Get Help and Apply for SBA Disaster Assistance:

1. Apply online using SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.
2. Apply in person at any Disaster Recovery Center and receive personal, one-on-one help from an SBA representative. For additional information or to find a location near you, visit our website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>, call the SBA at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.
3. Apply by mail: Send completed paper application to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

SBA Disaster Recovery Loans

SBA provides low-interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners, and renters. SBA disaster loans can be used to repair or replace the following items damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster: real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business assets. Visit <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> for more information.

Homeowner Damages

If you are a homeowner or renter, FEMA may refer you to US Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA disaster loans are the primary source of money to pay for repair or replacement costs not fully covered by insurance or other compensation. Homeowners may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace their primary residence. Homeowners and renters may borrow up to \$40,000 to replace personal property, including vehicles. Homeowners and renters should submit their SBA disaster loan application, even if they are not sure if they will need or want a loan. If SBA cannot approve your application, in most cases it is referred to FEMA's Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program for possible additional assistance. Begin by Registering with FEMA at (800) 621-3362.

Beware, House Bill 1774

House Bill 1774, passed in the regular Texas legislative session, will go into effect on Sept. 1 and will limit the penalties insurance companies could face if they don't pay enough in claims. The bill is often referred to as "hailstorm lawsuit reform," but has a much wider scope that includes natural disasters such as the flooding going on throughout Texas.

This means that should an insurance company pay claims late because of a lawsuit, the company will have to pay a penalty of 10 percent, versus the 18 percent that is required now. It would also lessen the likelihood for insurance providers to pay plaintiff's attorney fees and it would protect individual insurance agents from the disadvantages that come with being personally sued.

The Texas Trial Lawyers Association is advising homeowners to file their claims before September 1st. The state attorney group argues the new law will make it more difficult for homeowners to sue their insurance companies after it takes effect. HB 1774 only affects homeowners' insurance claims, which does not cover Texas Windstorm Insurance Association or federal flood insurance.

For more information, read the following articles:

[HOUSE BILL 1774 – Houston Business Journal](#) and [HOUSE BILL 1774 – Community Impact News](#)

Need Shelter or Want to Help?

The following locations have been opened as shelter's for those displaced by Hurricane Harvey.

Northwest Houston

- People located to the south of Hwy. 290, should go to Morton Ranch High School located at 21000 Franz Rd., Katy TX 77449.
- People located north of Hwy. 290 should go to The MET Church, located at 13000 Jones Road, Houston, TX 77070.
- Those in the Klein area should go to the Klein ISD Multi-Purpose Center located at 7500 FM 2920, Spring, TX 77379.

Downtown Houston

The George R. Brown Convention Center, located at 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX 77010 has been opened as a shelter.

Donations Needed

Supplies for those in need of comfort items may be dropped off at the Met or the George R. Brown Convention Center. Items needed include dry towels, clothing and toiletries.