

CHEATHAM COUNTY TORNADO RECOVERY RESOURCES DECEMBER 2021

CHEATHAM COUNTY EMA – VISIT THE DISASTER TRAILER AT HWY 70 & CEDAR RD

- Report damage (assessments are being conducted countywide to record damage).
- Take pictures of damage, lots of pictures
- Use the After Disaster Resources below:
 - Report Damage to the FEMA Disaster Portal at:
<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>

To Register For FEMA Assistance:

- Go to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)
- Call the Helpline at **1-800-621-3362**, TTY **1-800-462-7585**
- Visit a local Disaster Recovery Center. Locations and hours of operation are available at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)

TEMA December Severe Weather Resources

On December 10-11, a line of severe storms and tornadoes swept across the state and resulted in fatalities, damaged structures and residences in more than 20 counties, and disrupted power and water utility operations. This page offers resources for those recovering and will be updated regularly.

- **Volunteer**
Volunteers can connect with Tennessee Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster at www.tnvoad.org/donate/
- **Give**
In times of disaster, financial donations are the best way to aid those in need. Cash can be used immediately in response to a crisis, and allows disaster relief organizations to purchase exactly what is needed, when it's needed. Cash gives relief organizations the means to procure supplies near the affected area, which cuts down on transportation time and cost. Monetary contributions also support local economies and ensure that businesses can operate when relief supplies diminish.
- [Charity Navigator](#) lists many non-profit organizations supporting the tornado relief efforts in Tennessee and other states impacted over the weekend.
- **American Red Cross**
The American Red Cross continues to serve those affected by the recent severe weather. Emergency assistance is available to individuals whose homes were destroyed or majorly impacted. For more information, please contact the American Red Cross by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
- **Crisis Cleanup**
A Crisis Cleanup service is in place for Tennesseans who need help with debris removal and home cleanup from the recent severe weather. All services are free, but service is not guaranteed due to the expected overwhelming need. Individuals needing assistance should call the hotline at 800-451-1954.
- **Tennessee Statewide Crisis Phone Line**
Call 855-CRISIS-1 (855-274-7471) to speak with a caring, trained mental health professional, 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week, if you are experiencing a mental health emergency. You can also text TN to 741741.
- **Rx Open**
Rx Open provides information on the operating status of healthcare facilities in areas impacted by a disaster. Visit their website at rxopen.org/

Know the Facts! Ignore the Myths and Rumors About FEMA Assistance

Release Date: Jul 16, 2021

Myths, rumors and misinformation find their way onto social networks and elsewhere in nearly every major disaster. Survivors with recovery questions from last May's severe storms, tornadoes and flooding should be cautious of what they may read or hear. Always ask for clarification from official sources. Get straight answers and plain facts by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (TTY) 800-462-7585.

Here are some common myths and what the true facts are:

Myth: I told the parish about my damage in May, so FEMA has my information.

FACT: You must apply to FEMA directly for disaster assistance. The deadline is Aug. 2. Apply by visiting the Recovery Service Center at Washington-Marion Magnet High School, 2802 Pineview St. in Lake Charles. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. through Thursday, July 15. No appointment is needed. Survivors can apply by:

- Going online at DisasterAssistance.gov
- Downloading the FEMA app
- Calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 or (TTY) 800-462-7585

Myth: FEMA can't do anything if I'm forced to leave my apartment after a disaster.

FACT: Louisiana renters who face eviction or have been evicted due to the disaster may be eligible for disaster assistance from FEMA. This may be so, even if they were previously determined ineligible for FEMA assistance. If you are served with an eviction notice, call FEMA at 800-621-3362 for help.



Myth: FEMA assistance could affect my Social Security benefits, taxes, food stamps or Medicaid.

FACT: FEMA assistance does not affect benefits from other federal programs and is not considered taxable income by the IRS.

Myth: I can't get FEMA help since I have insurance.

FACT: While FEMA, by law, cannot duplicate insurance benefits, many homeowners find they were underinsured for their losses and should apply to see if they are eligible for disaster assistance.

Myth: I'm a renter and I thought FEMA assistance was only for homeowners for home repairs.

FACT: FEMA assistance is not just for homeowners. FEMA may also provide assistance to help renters who lost personal property or who were displaced.

Myth: I don't want to apply for help because others had more damage; they need the help more than I.

FACT: FEMA funding is available to assist **all** eligible survivors who have suffered losses because of the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding.

Myth: I didn't apply for help because I don't want a loan.

FACT: FEMA grants do not have to be paid back. The grants may cover expenses for temporary housing, home repairs, replacement of damaged personal property and other disaster-related needs such as medical, dental, funeral or transportation repair or replacement costs not covered by insurance or other programs.

Myth: If there are other family members or roommates living with me, FEMA is not going



to give them any help.

FACT: FEMA is committed to giving each individual survivor all the help for which they are eligible. FEMA evaluates the needs of all eligible survivors on a case-by-case basis. Be sure to tell FEMA about the needs of all members of your household, whether they are related to one another or not. Call the FEMA Helpline at 800-321-3362 if you need to update your registration or have questions about the needs of any members of your household.

Myth: Receiving a letter from FEMA stating that I am not eligible means I will not receive any assistance.

FACT: Not necessarily true. Receiving such a letter does not always mean an applicant is not eligible for disaster assistance, even when the letter states “ineligible” or “incomplete.” Such a letter can simply be an indication that more information is needed, or that the applicant’s insurance claim needs to be settled before FEMA disaster assistance can be granted. Call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 with questions.

Myth: FEMA told me to apply for an SBA loan, I don’t want a loan, and I don’t own a business.

FACT: Applicants who apply for FEMA disaster assistance and are referred to the SBA and do not complete a U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loan application could be missing a good opportunity. The SBA offers affordable financial help to homeowners and renters. You don’t need to own a business to request assistance.

- An SBA low-interest disaster loan may cover some or all of the difference between your recovery costs, the insurance settlement, and the FEMA grant amount.
- SBA offers low-interest disaster loans for homeowners up to the \$200,000 statutory maximum to repair or replace your primary residence. The loans are customized to your personal financial circumstances. On a case-by-case basis, the SBA may be able to assist with refinancing your current mortgage(s).
- SBA can also help renters and homeowners replace household contents and vehicles, referred to as personal property. You may be able to borrow up to the \$40,000 statutory maximum to repair or replace clothing, furniture, cars, or appliances that were damaged or destroyed in the disaster.



For additional assistance, the SBA has established a Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center that is open Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT. You can contact an SBA customer service representative via email at FOCWAssistance@sba.gov or by phone at 800-659-2955. SBA will answer specific questions about how a disaster loan may help each survivor with their disaster recovery and will provide one-on-one assistance in completing applications for these loans. You can apply online at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov>.

Myth: FEMA has the final word. If my application is denied, that's it. There is nothing I can do about it.

FACT: Wrong. Every applicant is entitled to appeal. Below are the steps for appealing a decision:

FEMA will need your full name, address of pre-disaster residence, current phone number and address, and signature. The appeal must be postmarked within 60 days of the date the FEMA determination letter was received.

Date the appeal letter, include your nine-digit FEMA application number and the disaster code (DR-4606-LA). You can upload it to disasterassistance.com, mail or fax it to:

FEMA National Processing Service Center P. O. Box 10055 Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055

Fax: 800-827-8112; Attention: FEMA



Fact Sheet: Mold: Problems and Solutions

Release Date	Release Number
October 24, 2017	DR-4339-PR FS 013

Release Date:

October 24, 2017

After a natural disaster such as a hurricane or flood, excess moisture and water can contribute to the growth of mold in homes. If your home was flooded or damaged by water, mold may be present and may pose a health risk. You may see or smell mold on clothing, drywall, and furniture. It may also be hidden under or behind items like flooring, appliances, or walls. Drying your home and removing water-damaged items is the most important step in repairing mold damage.

Problems Associated With Mold

- **Medical:** Mold spores are microscopic organisms that can float through the air and cause problems with allergies, asthma, infections, and other respiratory issues. Anyone can suffer from medical issues related to mold. However, infants and children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems may experience more severe reactions. People with breathing problems like asthma or who have weakened immune systems should stay away from moldy sites.
- **Home:** If your home has mold, everything that has been contaminated must be cleaned properly and dried. Items that cannot be properly cleaned and dried within 24-48 hours must be removed and thrown away, including structural and personal property. Children should not take part in disaster cleanup work. It is possible to have mold damage, despite no other visible damages.

How to Remove Mold and Repair Your Home

Mold removal and home repairs are serious projects that may be difficult or dangerous, so it may be best to get help from a professional. If you must remove the mold yourself, follow these steps:

- **Wear Protective Gear:** If you are removing any damaged property on your own, make sure you wear protective eye masks or goggles, filter face masks, gloves, a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and waterproof boots to avoid contact with the mold.
- **Dry the Structure:** Clean and dry the structure as quickly as possible. If your house has been empty for several days, open the doors and windows to let the house air out for at least 30 minutes before you stay for any length of time. Open inside doors, especially

closets and interior rooms. Open kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanity doors, and wipe them clean.

- **Circulate Air:** When electricity is safe to operate, use fans and dehumidifiers to remove moisture. Position fans to blow air out doors and windows.
- **Remove All Contaminated Materials:** Ensure that you have located all contaminated structural materials and personal property. Remove and dispose of anything that was wet and can't be cleaned and dried completely.
- **Cleaning the Property:** Clean with water and detergent. Remove all mold you can see. Dry right away. If you use cleaning products, do not mix cleaning products together. DO NOT mix bleach and ammonia because it can create toxic vapors. After you finish cleaning the home, shower and change your clothes as soon as possible. This will help you avoid carrying mold and other hazards back to your current living quarters.
- **Repairing the Property:** Painting or caulking over mold will not prevent mold from growing. Fix the water or moisture problem completely and clean up all the mold before you paint or caulk. All mold must be removed and all areas must be disinfected before repairs can begin.

Take Pictures and Keep Receipts

- If possible, take pictures of the damage before you make repairs to your home. Keep receipts for all out-of-pocket repair expenses to show to the FEMA inspector. This will ensure they have the most accurate analysis of the damage and out-of-pocket expenses for their report.

FEMA

Shelters

Emergency Shelter: Locate options by zip code by visiting the American Red Cross or Salvation Army, or by texting SHELTER and your zip code (for example, "SHELTER 01234") to 4FEMA (43362). For Spanish text REFUGIO and your zip code (Standard text message rates apply.) You can also download the FEMA mobile app to find open shelters.

Clean Up After a Disaster

Following any emergency, always follow the instructions given by state, local or tribal emergency management officials.

Stay out of the area if possible. Emergency workers may be assisting people or cleaning up debris.

Enter areas that have sustained damaged only after your local officials have said it is safe to do so.

If you suspect any damage to your home, shut off the electrical power, natural gas and propane tanks to avoid fire, electrocution or explosions, if you know how to do so safely.

Do not touch downed power lines or any objects that are in contact with downed lines. If you see a downed power line or other electrical hazard, report it to the police and the utility company.

Be careful when cleaning up. Wear protective clothing, including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, work gloves and sturdy thick-soled shoes. Do not try to remove heavy debris by yourself. Use an appropriate mask if cleaning mold or other debris. People with asthma and other lung conditions and/or immune suppression should not enter buildings with indoor water leaks or mold growth that can be seen or smelled.

Information for Survivors

Disasters are, by their nature, overwhelming. If it wasn't overwhelming, we'd call it an "inconvenience," not a "disaster." So if you're feeling a little overwhelmed, you're not alone; and you're probably doing it right.

What is Crisis Cleanup?

Crisis Cleanup is a coordination website for relief agencies. We try to connect survivors who need help, with volunteer groups who can help. Crisis Cleanup is run by a very small group of people. We don't have any field volunteers who can help you ourselves.

Can I ask for help through Crisis Cleanup?

Yes, most of the time. We do not have a web form you can complete. And we only open for large disasters. The yellow box at the top of the page will tell you which disasters we are currently coordinating, and the phone number to call. You may also contact relief agencies and local volunteer and faith communities directly.

When will I receive help?

We don't know. Disasters are overwhelming. Everyone is working as hard as they can. Our goal is to help volunteers help more people, but we know that even in the best circumstances, not everyone will receive help. On average, 35% of people who ask for help through Crisis Cleanup never receive it. Volunteers typically work for 3-5 weeks after a disaster. Survivors who do not receive help by that time are not likely to get help through Crisis Cleanup partners.

Even after cleanup crews go home, we try to share your information with Long-Term Recovery Groups to maximize the chance you'll receive some help. We can't guarantee you'll be helped, but we do our best to ensure you're not forgotten.

We are not a government agency.

Is my damage in-scope?

Generally any work that does not require special skills, is in-scope. Examples include:

Small tree removal

Tarping

Muck-out (removing mud, drywall, and debris from a home)

Hauling debris to the curb

Work that requires special training, equipment, or expense is generally out-of-scope. Examples include:

- Large tree removal, or removing trees leaning on homes
- Fire cleanup
- Activities requiring permits (plumbing, electrical, rebuilding, etc.)
- Hauling debris to the landfill

Can Crisis Cleanup guarantee the volunteers will do a good job?

No. We only work with non-professional volunteer groups who do not charge money for their services. We exclude for-profit contractors and any group that we know has a bad reputation. Volunteer groups are unskilled. They may not be able to complete all of the work that needs to

be done. You should supervise them to make sure they do a good job. If you are aware of any group that is not doing a good job, please let us know.

Can I view Crisis Cleanup data?

No. We want to protect you and your neighbors. So we can't let the public see names, addresses, and phone numbers. Only trusted relief agencies access Crisis Cleanup. You can see a public map with anonymous information in your neighborhood. However, you may request that we delete certain data about your case, depending on your state laws.

How do I know if relief agencies are Using Crisis Cleanup?

Just ask! If your case is in Crisis Cleanup, we can't guarantee you'll be helped, but you won't be forgotten. You can ask for your Crisis Cleanup case number, which is a letter and a number, like, "A417" or "R5208."

What can I do?

Be patient: The road to recovery will take longer than you think, and longer than it should. You will need to fill out dozens of nearly identical forms for dozens of agencies and insurance companies. Most of the time, it will seem as though your work is to no avail. Be as patient as you can. The disaster has left a permanent impression in your life and the life of your family. Seek a new normal, even as you let go of some cherished aspects of your former life and lifestyle.

Be persistent: Though exhausting, you must be your own advocate. Surround yourself with a good support system in your church or community.

Your best bets are to reach out to friends, family, neighbors, and local faith communities who may be able to organize cleanup efforts. You may also dial 2-1-1 to see if there are any local resources.

Never give up hope: Remember that you are a normal person reacting to an abnormal event. Seek the counsel and advice of trusted friends, family, counselors, case managers, faith leaders, and even attorneys. They can guide you through the baffling maze of spiritual, emotional, physical, and legal pitfalls that await. Celebrate your spiritual, emotional and family victories—large and small—when they come.



Salvaging Water-Damaged Family Valuables and Heirlooms

The losses that are the result of disasters are usually measured in dollars, but often the losses that matter the most are the cherished items and heirlooms that are closest to the hearts of individuals and families. Although these treasured items may be damaged in floods, hurricanes, or tornadoes, it is often possible to salvage them. With a little patience, prompt action, and professional tips, saving treasured photographs, letters, and other irreplaceable objects is possible, although it may involve a follow-up consultation with a conservator.

General Information

- If the object is still wet, gently rinse it with clear, clean water. If it is dry, clean off silt and debris with a soft brush or dab it lightly with a damp cloth.
- Air dry wet or damp objects indoors, if possible. Sunlight and heat may be too intense, causing splits, warping, and buckling. Increase airflow with fans, open windows, or air conditioners, but do not point fans directly at drying objects. Inhibit the growth of mold and mildew by reducing humidity with dehumidifiers.
- Personal safety is important when working with objects retrieved from contaminated water. Wear disposable vinyl or nitrile gloves, protective clothing, goggles, and, when possible, use a respirator while working.

Photographs

Carefully remove wet photographs from plastic/paper enclosures; it may be safer to slit and peel an enclosure away from the photo than pull out the photo itself. Save or copy written names, etc. Wet photographs and negatives that are stuck together should never be pulled apart. Soak them in clean water until they separate, up to 48 hours until you can air dry or freeze them. (Do not freeze glass negatives or plates.) Rinse them in fresh water. Do not touch or blot surfaces. Air dry the photographs by hanging them with clips placed at the edges, or lay them flat, face up, on absorbent paper. Keep photographs from contacting adjacent surfaces or each other. If behind glass, see Framed Art.



Covered in mud and silt, family photos and other family heirlooms lay on streets and lawns after the severe flash flooding in Des Plaines, Illinois, in April 2013. Photo by Bryan Adams/FEMA Corps

Framed Art

Paintings: Remove from the frame whether wet or dry, unless stuck to glass. Keep it on the stretcher bars. If still wet, rinse mud and dirt off with a clean sponge and distilled water. If the paint layer is cracking, flaking, or otherwise appears unstable, do not attempt to clean; consult a professional conservator. If stable, gently blot the back of the canvas with a clean, dry towel; avoid distorting the canvas with pressure. Air dry using good circulation instead of heat or sunlight. To increase circulation, lay the canvas face up on a horizontal surface with airspace beneath the stretchers. **Art/photos/documents behind glass:** Remove from frame unless object appears stuck to glass. Air dry slowly, image side up with nothing touching the surface. If object is stuck to glass, leave it in the frame and air dry glass-side down for future scanning or treatment.

Books and Documents

If rinsing is necessary, hold books closed. If leather, cloth, or paper materials are tacky or sticky, place wax paper between them. Pack books, spine side down, in a single layer in sturdy containers. Stack documents so as not to crush them. Place the containers in a freezer, preferably with a frost-free setting and set it to the lowest possible temperature. Expect this drying process to take from

several weeks to several months, depending on the freezer temperature and the extent of water damage.

Basketry

Gently rinse, drain, and blot baskets to remove excess water; do not wring or twist to dry. Stuff the baskets with clean paper towels or cotton sheets to retain shape and absorb stains. Cover with clean towels and air dry them slowly, changing the blotting material regularly.

Fabrics and Textiles

Textiles will be weaker and heavier when wet and will need extra physical support when moving. Do not attempt to unfold extremely delicate fabrics if the fragile layers are stuck together. Do not stack wet textiles. To remove mud and debris, re-wet the textiles with gently flowing clean water or with a fine hose spray. Gently press water out with the palm of your hand. Do not wring or twist dry. Remove excess water with dry towels, blotting paper, or un-inked paper, especially if the dyes are bleeding. Reshape the textile while it is damp to approximate its original contours. Do not place textiles in sealed plastic bags.

Wooden Furniture

Gently rinse/sponge wooden surfaces to clean, and then blot and air dry slowly. If the furniture has a painted surface, air dry slowly without removing dirt or moisture. A slow process will help ensure that the wood dries evenly and is less likely to warp, split, or crack. Improper drying may cause the furniture to shrink or the inlay to lift. Never put wood furniture out in the sun to dry; the heat will cause uneven drying and can lighten and fade some wood stains. If in doubt, consult a furniture conservator for the best method to dry your water-damaged furniture.

Broken Pottery and Ceramics

If objects are broken or begin to fall apart, place all broken pieces and detached parts in clearly labeled open containers; ideally, a separate container should be used for fragments of each broken object. Do not attempt to repair objects until they are completely dry or, in the case of important materials, until you have consulted with a professional conservator. Monitor them for mold.

Metal Objects

Rinse metal objects exposed to floodwaters, mud, or silt with clear water and blot dry immediately with a clean, soft cloth. Metal objects can be directly dried with fans and low-heat hairdryers to increase their drying rate.

Allow heavy mud deposits on large metal objects, such as sculptures, to dry. Caked mud can be removed later.

Leather and Rawhide

If necessary, rinse/sponge with clear water to remove mud and reduce stains. Blot them dry with soft cloths or towels. Pad them with dry towels or un-inked paper to maintain shape; air dry. To keep rawhide, semi-tanned leather, such as kidskin, and fur supple, gently and frequently manipulate them during drying.

Because the information provided is general, the Heritage Emergency National Task Force strongly recommends that professional conservators be consulted regarding the appropriate method of treatment for historic objects. More detailed information is available from the following resources.

Resources

Video: Water Segment from *Field Guide to Emergency Response*

youtube.com/watch?v=rXyA5Dq_iHM

Video: Mud Segment from *Field Guide to Emergency Response*

youtube.com/watch?v=9KSkxydnvY

Video: Mold-Damaged Artwork

youtube.com/watch?v=2zKnWUdaYyQ

Salvage Procedures for Wet Items

mnhs.org/preserve/conservation/emergency.php

Find a Conservator

conservation-us.org/membership/find-a-conservator

Regional Alliance for Preservation (RAP)

preservecollections.org

Heritage Emergency National Task Force

culturalrescue.si.edu/resources/response-recovery-resources

For more information, visit the [HERNTF website](https://culturalrescue.si.edu) or email HERNTF@si.edu. This fact sheet was prepared with the assistance of PRICE, the Smithsonian Institution's Preparedness and Response in Collections Emergencies support team.



FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution co-sponsor the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, a partnership of 58 national service organizations and federal agencies created to protect cultural heritage from the damaging effects of natural disasters and other emergencies.