

Information for Residents and Businesses Affected by Tornadoes

On June 1 tornadoes ravaged communities in Western and Central Massachusetts. Since then, a number of local, state and federal officials have come together to assist residents affected by this tragic event. Here are some services offered by the Patrick-Murray Administration:

Home Improvement

Homeowners are encouraged to check a registration or license before signing up with a contractor or tradesman. The status of a contractor can be checked here, and consumers should also make sure the contractor is following state regulations regarding contracts and payment (for more information, click here). The license of a plumber, electrician or sheet metal worker can be checked here.

Consumers who are approached by a crew offering services without a license should contact the Office of Consumer Affairs Consumer Hotline at (888) 283-3757, and should also call that number if they have any further questions about a licensee's status.

Food Assistance

Individuals and families affected by the tornadoes can apply for benefits from the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. To find out if you can get Disaster SNAP, please read the Frequently Asked Questions (PDF) | DOC or call 1-800-445-6604.

Unemployment Assistance

Please call the Department of Unemployment Assistance at 1-877-626-6800 or 617-626-6800 if you are an unemployed worker or self-employed individual who lived, worked or was scheduled to work in the area impacted by the tornadoes. For more information, please visit www.mass.gov/dua/disasterui.

Insurance Claims

The Division of Insurance is providing staff at the DRCs, giving policyholders the opportunity to receive guidance as they navigate the insurance claims process. For more information, call the Division of Insurance hotline at (617) 521-7777.

To learn more about the Patrick-Murray Administration's comprehensive response to the storms, visit www.mass.gov/stormrecovery.



Federal Relief Centers Open

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has established nine disaster recovery centers (DRCs) in impacted areas to help individuals and business owners apply for federal assistance or low-interest loans to help fix or replace homes, cars and other property damaged or destroyed in the tornadoes.

SPRINGFIELD: Technology Park, One Federal Street, Building #104, Springfield, MA

WEST SPRINGFIELD: J. Edward Christian Municipal Office Building, 26 Central Street, 3rd Floor, West Springfield, MA

AGAWAM: MEMA Emergency Operations Center, 1002 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA

BRIMFIELD: Hitchcock Academy, 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA

STURBRIDGE: Sturbridge Police Station, 346 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA

WILBRAHAM: Wilbraham & Monson Academy, Blake Middle School, 20 Faculty Street (in back of building), Wilbraham, MA

MONSON: Granite Valley Middle School, 21 Thompson Street, Monson, MA

SOUTHBRIDGE: Jacob Edwards Library, 236 Main Street, Southbridge, MA

WESTFIELD: Munger Hill Elementary School, 33 Mallard Lane, Westfield, MA

The DRCs will be open from 8am to 7pm, seven days a week. Before visiting a DRC, it is strongly recommended that individuals and business owners first register for FEMA disaster assistance online at www.disasterassistance.gov, by phone at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired.