



President Declares Major Disaster for Tennessee

Release Date: February 8, 2008

Release Number: HQ-08-019

[» More Information on Tennessee Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) yesterday announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of Tennessee to help people and communities recover from the effects of severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding during the period of February 5-6, 2008.

FEMA Administrator David Paulison said the assistance was authorized under a major disaster declaration issued for the state by President Bush. Paulison said that the President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Hardin, Macon, Madison, Shelby, and Sumner counties.

The assistance, to be coordinated by FEMA, can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration also will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Federal funding also is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis in Hardin, Macon, Madison, Shelby, and Sumner counties for debris removal and emergency protective measures. In addition, federal funding is available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures for all counties within the state.

Paulison named Gracia B. Szczech as the federal coordinating officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Szczech said that damage surveys are continuing in other areas, and more counties and additional forms of assistance may be designated after the assessments are fully completed in the affected areas.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance by registering online at www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA(3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free

telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time) Monday through Sunday until further notice.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.



LAMAR ALEXANDER

U.S. SENATOR – TENNESSEE

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Alexander, Corker Statements on the Storm Devastation in Tennessee

February 6th, 2008 - U.S. Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Bob Corker (R-TN) made the following statements today regarding the storm devastation in Tennessee.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to every Tennessean impacted last night by the storms, particularly those whose loved ones were injured or killed,” said Alexander. “We are continuing today to be in communication with Governor Bredesen and with local officials and will do everything within our ability to respond to the needs of the Tennesseans and the communities affected in a comprehensive and timely fashion. We urge everyone today who may be affected by additional storms to take proper precautions and consider safety first.”

“We are continuing to follow reports of the extensive damage, injuries and tragic fatalities caused by the severe weather across Tennessee, and our thoughts and prayers are with all of those families who have been devastated by this disaster,” said Corker. “I know that local and state officials are working hard and providing much-needed leadership and support for their citizens, and we stand ready to offer any assistance we can.”

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Federal Response To Tornado - Struck Communities Continues

Release Date: February 6, 2008

Release Number: HQ-08-014

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to work alongside state, local and non-governmental relief agencies to provide fast and effective response to the severe thunderstorms and tornadoes that swept through Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Specialists from FEMA are on site to support the response efforts already underway, and more federal resources are being sent to meet needs as they arise or are identified. Specifically, the federal efforts underway include:

FEMA Region IV

- The Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) Watch Unit in Thomasville, Ga. is monitoring the situation and will remain on duty until further notice.
- FEMA state liaisons have deployed to Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky State Emergency Operations Center (SEOCs). Regular contact is being maintained with liaisons and the Region IV RRCC.
- The Federal Incident Response Team (FIRST) - Atlanta deployed late last night to the Tennessee SEOC. This morning, it redeployed to Lafayette in Macon County, 60 miles northeast of Nashville.
- Emergency Response Team – Advance (ERT-A) has deployed to the Tennessee SEOC in support of the federal response mission.
- Federal preliminary damage assessment (PDA) teams are standing by to assist state and local emergency managers assess damages and identify needs.

FEMA Region VI

- An Initial Operating Facility is being established in Little Rock to begin coordinating the federal response in Arkansas.
- Ten PDA teams have been deployed to Arkansas to assess damages.
- Regional Administrator William Peterson is deploying to Little Rock to meet with FEMA and the state leadership.
- The Region VI RRCC in Denton, Texas is monitoring the situation and will remain on duty until further notice.
- A FEMA liaison is at the Arkansas SEOC.
- Emergency communications resources were sent with ERT-A to supplement state emergency managers. Additional satellite phones are being deployed to support state and local operations in communications limited locations.
- FIRST – Chicago has deployed to Arkansas to assist state and local response efforts.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

The SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center East (based in Atlanta) is mobilizing staff to participate in PDAs (along with FEMA and state emergency management officials) beginning Thursday in Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky. The Disaster Field Operations Center West (based in Sacramento) will simultaneously do the damage assessment in Arkansas along with FEMA and state emergency management representatives.

SBA's Disaster Field Operations Centers East and West are contacting their disaster reservists and regular staffers and placing them on travel alert to be deployed if needed.

SBA's Regional and District offices have also been briefed on the status of the PDAs, and have been placed on alert if it is determined that their support will be needed during the early phase of the recovery efforts.

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

National Guard missions normally performed during tornado relief operations include, but are not limited to: base and community clean-up; flood prevention and evacuation; distribution of supplies, ice and water; road clearing; search and rescue; security/law enforcement airspace coordination; clean-up; aircraft support and patient evacuations; airspace coordination; and billeting.

National Guard efforts currently underway in the affected states include:

Arkansas

- 28 National Guard personnel deployed on state active duty in support of search and rescue Operations.
- One (1) Observational Helicopter (OH58) currently deployed used for observation /utility missions.

Kentucky

- 53 National Guard personnel deployed on state active duty conducting security and traffic control operations.
- 13 HMMVS (Military version of the Hummer) currently deployed.

Tennessee

- 17 National Guard personnel deployed on state active duty in support of local authorities.

US Army Corps of Engineers:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is prepared to assist the federal, state and local efforts in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. The Corps has alerted Public Works and

Engineering Mission Planning and Response Teams and has deployed a team leader to FEMA Region IV's RRCC in Denton, TX.

Health and Human Services (HHS):

HHS is deploying a specialist to support federal activities in FEMA's Region IV RRCC.

Non-governmental relief agencies work in partnership with emergency managers to deliver life-sustaining services to those impacted by disasters. Some of the activities in response to these storms include:

American Red Cross:

American Red Cross (ARC) chapters are responding in all five states affected by the Southeast tornadoes. ARC regional and national resources are supplementing these efforts. Red Cross workers are on the job providing shelter, feeding victims and emergency personnel, and lending emotional support to all. More than 350 people stayed in shelters last night; today's activities will continue to focus on emergency sheltering and feeding. Over the next few days the Red Cross anticipates that it will begin bulk distribution of clean-up kits and other supplies.

The Red Cross encourages families forced from their homes to register on the Red Cross Safe and Well Web site at www.redcross.org.

FEMA continues to monitor the storm system as it moves into more areas, and assess its impact on those communities. The storms still are expected to bring high winds and dangerous conditions. Tornado conditions can happen quickly. Being prepared can save lives and property. While federal, state and local officials are responding to the storms, individuals also should take steps to plan for emergencies. The following are preparedness steps individuals can take now to protect their homes and families:

- Tune in to radio and television broadcasts that provide vital emergency information. Have a battery-powered radio on hand in case of power outages.
- Residents should identify appropriate tornado-safe sheltering locations and stay informed of approaching conditions by listening to local officials regarding emergency orders.
- Find out what you can do to be safe, such as creating family disaster plans. A wealth of information on preparing for disasters is available online at www.ready.gov and www.fema.gov. These Websites have reading materials for families, pet owners, business and community leaders, plus checklists and practice exercises.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

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Bredesen Responds to Deadly Tornadoes That Struck Tennessee

02/06/2008

Governor Phil Bredesen received detailed briefings last night and this morning from Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) officials in the wake of deadly tornadoes that struck Tennessee on Tuesday. The storms have resulted in an estimated two dozen fatalities, 150 injuries and widespread damage in seven counties across Tennessee.

"To those who have lost loved ones or suffered injury, I want to say that the thoughts and prayers of our state are with you," said Bredesen. "Our priority today is to support our first responders and those most impacted by the storms. As we look forward, I pledge the full resources of state government to help people rebuild and get back on their feet as quickly as possible."

Emergency response efforts are underway in affected areas today. Once those efforts are completed, Bredesen has asked state and local agencies to obtain rapid damage assessments to support an anticipated request for federal disaster relief. Additional information about state and federal assistance for affected counties will be released as details become available.

Bredesen has been receiving briefings since the storms struck last night. This morning he has been working with local officials in the most heavily impacted counties by phone and will tour storm damaged areas later today and tomorrow.

Current situation reports and maps can be found on TEMA's web site.

Bredesen Tours Tornado-Damaged Areas

02/06/2008



Governor Phil Bredesen made an aerial tour Wednesday of Macon, Sumner and Trousdale Counties in the wake of deadly tornadoes that struck Tennessee on Tuesday. The storms resulted in an estimated 28 fatalities, 150 injuries and widespread damage in seven counties across Tennessee.

Bredesen spoke with first responders in Macon County, which was one of the hardest hit with more than 68 injured and 12 storm-related fatalities.

"To those who have lost loved ones or suffered injury, the thoughts and prayers of our state are with you," said Bredesen. "Our priority today is to support our first responders and those most impacted by the storms. As we look forward, I pledge the full resources of state government to help people rebuild and get back on their feet as quickly as possible."

Bredesen will tour impacted areas of West Tennessee on Thursday.

**For Immediate Release:
February 7, 2008**

**For More Information Contact:
Rick Roberts, Dir. of Communications
Mid-South Chapter, American Red Cross
(901) 848-8305**

AMERICAN RED CROSS RESPONDS TO VICTIMS OF DEADLY STORM ACTIVITY

MEMPHIS, TN, - Feb. 7, 2008...The past few days have been hard for many of our neighbors and friends. Lives have been lost and severe damage has been done as one of the worst tornado outbreaks in U.S. history ripped across the south, wreaking havoc along the way. Since the first tornado Tuesday afternoon, a reported 69 other tornadoes were sighted in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Preliminary assessments indicate:

- Media reports estimate 52 deaths occurred and more than 100 people suffered injuries as a result of the disaster.
- Homes, buildings, a retirement home, a shopping mall and dormitories at Union University in Tennessee sustained severe damage.
- In Tennessee - the hardest hit area - tornadoes damaged 1,600 homes and destroyed upwards of 120 homes.
- **The American Red Cross Response:**
- Red cross disaster workers were amongst the first responders and are currently on the ground, providing assistance
- The Red Cross and our partners have opened 8 shelters, providing more than 300 people with a safe and warm place to sleep
- Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles have deployed to affected areas to provide mobile assistance, including distribution of hot meals and clean-up supplies.
- The Red Cross will continue to assess the situation and work with other relief organizations to provide food, water, clean-up and comfort kits, bulk distribution, first aid, mental health services and other emergency assistance.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? THE DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The American Red Cross responds to approximately 75,000 disasters a year, including natural disasters such as these tornadoes, house fires, storms, hurricanes and other disasters, providing aid to more disaster victims nationwide. This means that every eight minutes a disaster strikes and a family turns to the Red Cross for help. The Red Cross stands ready to turn the compassion of our donors into action. With your support of the Disaster Relief Fund, a fund, that requires constant replenishment, the Red Cross can be there for the victims of the recent tornadoes.

You can make a secure online donation at www.midsouthredcross.org . If you would like to more information on how to make a financial donation, contact Lauren Shepard with the Mid-South Chapter of the American Red Cross at 901-726-1690, ext. 1111 or via email at shepardl@midsouthredcross.org.

Insurance Links

State of Tennessee Department of Insurance

Official website: <http://www.state.tn.us/commerce/>

Consumer Affairs: **800-342-8385**

Mailing Address:

Nashville, TN 37243-0600

Phone: 615-741-4737

State Farm

File an online claim: <https://online.statefarm.com/apps/AskSF/>

Agent locator:

<https://online.statefarm.com/apps/agentLoc/SearchResults.asp?search=city&zip=&streetaddr=&city=Memphis&state=TN&lname=&acode=&goodneigh=&bankin=&varlife=&mutual=&language=>

AllState

File an online claim: <http://www.allstate.com/claims/report-claim.aspx>

File a claim related to a storm or catastrophe: **1-800-54-STORM (1-800-547-8676)**

[Contact your agent](#)

Nationwide

Official website: <http://www.nationwide.com/contact-us.jsp>

Claims: **1-800-421-3535**

General questions: **1-877-On Your Side[®]** or **1-877-669-6877**

Farmers Insurance

Official website:

http://www.farmers.com/FarmComm/WebSite/html/common/report_a_claim.html

 Service at **1-800-435-7764**.

Travelers

Official website: <http://www.travelers.com/travelers-homepage.asp>

File a claim: **1-800-CLAIM33** (1-800-252-4633)

Amica

Official website: https://www.amica.com/about_us/aboutUs.html

File a claim: **1-800-242-6422**

American Family

24-hour Claim Customer Care Center: **1-800-374-1111**.



News Release

Memphis and Shelby County Health Department
814 Jefferson Ave., Memphis, TN 38105

NUMBER:	08-06	DATE:	Wednesday, February 06, 2008
FOR RELEASE:	IMMEDIATE	CONTACT:	Joan Carr (901) 544-7505

www.shelbycountyttn.gov

Avoid the Danger of Carbon Monoxide

MEMPHIS, TN. — The Memphis-Shelby County Health Department wants to remind everyone of the dangers associated with using portable generators to cope with the power outages caused by the recent severe weather. Small gasoline-powered engines and tools produce high concentrations of carbon monoxide (CO) - a poisonous gas that can cause illness, permanent neurological damage, and death. Because it is colorless, odorless, and non-irritating, CO can overcome exposed persons without warning. Often there is little time before they experience symptoms that inhibit their ability to seek safety. Prevent CO poisoning by:

- Never operating generators or any portable engines inside buildings or in partially enclosed areas such as attached garages – even with the garage door open. These units should only be used when they can be located outside and away from open windows and air intakes.
- Learning to recognize the symptoms and signs of CO poisoning. Early symptoms are described as flu-like and include headache, nausea, fatigue, and dizziness. Higher exposure levels can result in visual disturbances, changes in personality, loss of consciousness, and death. Any of these symptoms and signs can occur within minutes of exposure to high levels of CO, but lower levels of exposure can also be deadly over longer periods.
- Installing a CO monitor in your home. Monitors are available at many hardware and home stores.

The constant noise produced by portable generators can be annoying to you and your neighbors, but never try to muffle the sound by placing a generator inside an attached garage. When using a generator, always read the instructions in the owner's manual and follow the proper safety precautions.

For more information about carbon monoxide, generators, and monitors, contact the Pollution Control Section of the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department at (901) 544-7775, or your local fire station.



News Release

Memphis and Shelby County Health Department
814 Jefferson Ave., Memphis, TN 38105

NUMBER: 08-05 **DATE:** Wednesday, February 6, 2008
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE **CONTACT:** Joan Carr
www.shelbycountyttn.gov (901) 544-7505

Post-Storm Food Handling Precautions

MEMPHIS, TN – Due to power outages following the recent severe weather, the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department strongly encourages all citizens to examine the food items in their refrigerators and freezers. When power is restored it is important to identify and discard potentially hazardous food that may have been at temperatures above 41°F for four (4) hours or longer or has an unusual color, odor, or texture.

According to recommendations from the Tennessee Department of Health and the federal Food and Drug Administration, residents that have been without power **should discard** the following foods if they have been without refrigeration for four (4) hours or longer:

Meat, poultry, fish, eggs and egg substitutes – raw or cooked	Custard, chiffon, pumpkin or cheese pies
Lunch meats and hot dogs	Cream-filled pastries
Milk, cream and soft cheese	Cookie dough made with eggs
Casseroles, stews or soups	Whipped butter
Creamy-based food made on site	Cut melons
	Cooked vegetables

The following foods may be kept at room temperature for a few days, although food quality may be affected.

Butter or margarine	Fruit juices
Hard and processed cheeses	Fresh herbs and spices
Dried fruits and coconut	Fruit pies, breads, rolls and muffins
Opened jars of vinegar-based salad dressings, jelly, relish, taco sauce, barbecue sauce, mustard, ketchup, olives	Cakes, except cream cheese frosted or cream-filled
	Flour and nuts

-more-

Food stored in freezers is safe to keep or use as long as the food is still frozen or contains ice crystals. Leave the freezer door closed as much as possible. Once the freezer reaches room temperature, the food either must be cooked and used right away or discarded.

Precautions must be taken for storage and collection of spoiled food to prevent attracting rats and other vermin and to diminish strong odors.

- All spoiled food should be placed in a plastic bag and securely tied.
- Spoiled food in plastic bags should be stored in a metal or plastic leak-proof garbage container and placed by the curb for collection.
- If at all possible, keep garbage containers out of direct sunlight prior to trash collection day.
- Do **NOT** store food in boxes or plastic bags on curb for pickup, unless they are in waste containers with tight fitting lids.

It is important to remember to wash your hands with soap and water after handling of raw or spoiled food items in order to reduce the spread of diseases.

For more information regarding proper disposal of food items, contact the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department's Environmental Sanitation Food Service Program during normal business hours at 544-7757 or 544-7671.

Memphis Fire Department
65 S. Front Street
Memphis, TN 38103
Phone (901) 527-1400



FEBRUARY 6, 2008

Press Release / Building Collapses from Tornado

5650 Challenge Drive

On Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 5:57 p.m., the Memphis Fire Department responded to a report of a collapsed building at 5650 Challenge Dr. (DSC Logistics), a large one story concrete warehouse. Upon arrival on the scene, firefighters reported that the roof and walls of the structure had collapsed and there were victims possibly trapped inside. Rescue operations began immediately.

Forty-five (45) pieces of Fire/Rescue/EMS equipment and approximately ninety-one (91) emergency response personnel ultimately responded to the call. Division Chief H. Posey was the commanding officer of this incident. It appears that the collapse was a result of a tornado. Total damage estimates have not been determined.

One firefighter was transported in non-critical condition to Methodist Hospital North at Memphis for a minor cut on the hand and was treated and released. Thirteen (13) civilians were transported to various area medical facilities.

Two (2) of those thirteen, both adult males were transported in critical condition to the Regional Medical Center at Memphis for injuries sustained during the collapse. Both of the males' conditions have since been upgraded to stable. The other eleven (11) adults were all transported in non-critical condition. Eight (8) of the thirteen (13) victims transported were actually rescued from the collapsed structure by Memphis Fire Department rescue crews who worked tirelessly to remove victims. Two (2) canine teams also assisted with search efforts.

During the search rescue crews found three dead civilians. There were two (2) males, ages twenty-three (23) and thirty-eight (38) and a sixty (60) year old female. *The names of the victims have not been released pending positive identification and next of kin notification. The cause of death remains unknown on all three victims pending the Shelby County Medical Examiner's report.*

Several commercial structures in the Hickory Hill area including the Hickory Ridge Mall sustained severe damage as a result of the storm. However, there were no injuries reported from any of these facilities as the evacuations took place.

The Memphis Fire Department urges all citizens to maintain a working smoking detector in their place of residence. Any City of Memphis resident can apply for a free smoke detector by contacting the Fire Museum of Memphis at (901) 320-5650. Always have a plan of escape in case there is a fire. Also remember that 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. For all other FIRE/EMS NON-EMERGENCY issues please dial (901) 458-8281.

Contact: Lieutenant Keith L. Staples

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Cell: (901) 601-1612

(End of Release)