

Rep. John Turner | House District 114 Email Update

Date: November 21, 2019
Subject: Dallas Tornado Recovery Update - One Month Later

Friends,

As we mark one month since the tornados touched down in our community, I want to provide an update on the state's efforts to secure federal assistance and other important developments at the local level. But first, I would like to express again our appreciation for our local first responders who worked tirelessly to provide immediate assistance, and the state and local officials who continue to work toward rebuilding our community. We also remain grateful for the many neighbors and volunteers who continue to demonstrate our city's spirit of resilience.

My staff and I continue to be available to assist those still recovering from the tornado. **Additionally, I will be holding mobile office hours on Tuesday, December 3rd, from 8:30 to 11:00 am at Neuhaus Cafe** in the Preston Royal Shopping Center, 5959 Royal Ln., Suite 626. I welcome discussions with anyone needing assistance relating to storm recovery, and I am happy to discuss any other issues on your mind. Please RSVP to Brenda.Allen@house.texas.gov so we can know to expect you.

John

Federal Assistance through FEMA

As local officials continue to collect damage assessments, the state through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) is providing technical assistance and working with the federal government. If the damage assessments meet a federal threshold, the Governor may request a presidential disaster declaration through FEMA. This would open the door to cost-sharing reimbursement and other federal public assistance. The state has secured a 30-day extension to review data, so we may not know if we will have a federal disaster declaration until the end of the year.

U.S. Small Business Administration Loans

Earlier this month, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) granted the state's request and announced that businesses, non-profits, and residents affected by the storms are eligible for low-interest federal disaster loans. These loans are the primary source of federal assistance to help private property owners pay for disaster losses not fully covered by insurance. Beginning this past Monday, SBA representatives are available at a local Disaster Loan Outreach Center to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process, and help each individual complete their application. The center will be open on the days and times indicated below until further notice. No appointment is necessary, and their address is below.

Disaster Loan Outreach Center
Bachman Lake Branch Library
9480 Webb Chapel Road
Dallas, TX 75220

Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

(Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29)

You can find additional information on the loan types and eligibility requirements here:
<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

SBA provides the following loans:

- **Physical disaster loans:** Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to businesses and homeowners to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.
- **Economic injury disaster loans:** For small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.
- **Personal Home Loans and Personal Property Loans:** Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.
- Again, note that the SBA Disaster Loan program is targeted to losses not fully covered by insurance.

Property Appraisals

As of this writing, the Dallas Central Appraisal District advises that a number of local taxing entities, including the City of Dallas and Dallas County, have passed resolutions providing for reappraisal of homes or businesses hit by the Oct. 20 tornado, and corresponding adjustment of this year's property tax bills. The remaining local entities (Dallas ISD and Parkland) may approve similar adjustments in the near future.

Sanitation Services

We understand that some of the affected areas have experienced interruptions in their regular trash and recycling service. In response, contract crews have been deployed in an effort to return to the normal collection schedule by December. The City anticipates debris removal to be completed by the end of November.

Our Office's Contact Information

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